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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2007

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Memorial Day approaches, we pause to thank You for those who have laid down their lives for our country. Thank You for heroes and the heroines proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved and mercy more than life. Use our lawmakers to honor the sacrifices of those who have given the last full measure of devotion.

May our Senators dedicate themselves to the great task of perfecting Your kingdom of peace and righteousness among all nations. Endue the Members of this body with the courage to be faithful in their work that they may not break faith with those who have fallen on distant battlefields.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the immigration bill. We have the two managers of the bill here. There will be two amendments from each side to be offered today.

Mr. President, in anticipation of coming back the week after our break, which starts this afternoon, we are going to finish the immigration bill. I hope that we will not have to file cloture. There have been enough amendments offered. I hope we can have a final vote on passage. If things are not going well on Tuesday and Wednesday

when we get back, I will consider filing cloture. I will certainly discuss this in detail with the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL.

We have made a lot of progress on this bill. It is according to whose view you have as to whether it is forward or backward. As far as I am concerned, the bipartisan agreement that was reached by Democrats and Republicans has put us on a path for resolving one of America's big problems, immigration.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S.J. RES. 14

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S.J. Res. 14 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 14) expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to further proceeding at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S6927

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1348, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1348) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Kennedy/Specter) amendment No. 1150, in the nature of a substitute.

Grassley/DeMint amendment No. 1166 (to amendment No. 1150), to clarify that the revocation of an alien's visa or other documentation is not subject to judicial review.

Cornyn modified amendment No. 1184 (to amendment No. 1150), to establish a permanent bar for gang members, terrorists, and other criminals.

Dodd/Menendez amendment No. 1199 (to amendment No. 1150), to increase the number of green cards for parents of United States citizens, to extend the duration of the new parent visitor visa, and to make penalties imposed on individuals who overstay such visas applicable only to such individuals.

Menendez amendment No. 1194 (to amendment No. 1150), to modify the deadline for the family backlog reduction.

McConnell amendment No. 1170 (to amendment No. 1150), to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require individuals voting in person to present photo identification.

Feingold amendment No. 1176 (to amendment No. 1150), to establish commissions to review the facts and circumstances surrounding injustices suffered by European Americans, European Latin Americans, and Jewish refugees during World War II.

Durbin/Grassley amendment No. 1231 (to amendment No. 1150), to ensure that employers make efforts to recruit American workers.

Sessions amendment No. 1234 (to amendment No. 1150), to save American taxpayers up to \$24 billion in the 10 years after passage of this act, by preventing the earned income tax credit, which is, according to the Congressional Research Service, the largest anti-poverty entitlement program of the Federal Government, from being claimed by Y temporary workers or illegal aliens given status by this act until they adjust to legal permanent resident status.

Sessions amendment No. 1235 (to amendment No. 1150), to save American taxpayers up to \$24 billion in the 10 years after passage of this act, by preventing the earned income tax credit, which is, according to the Congressional Research Service, the largest anti-poverty entitlement program of the Federal Government, from being claimed by Y temporary workers or illegal aliens given status by this act until they adjust to legal permanent resident status.

Lieberman amendment No. 1191 (to amendment No. 1150), to provide safeguards against faulty asylum procedures and to improve conditions of detention.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, as this bill has progressed through the week, there has been, in my view, significant progress made. It has truly been a tribute to the leadership on both sides, and I acknowledge the leadership of the majority leader, HARRY REID, in terms of holding people's feet to the fire to get us moving forward with immigration.

We hope to be able to bring this to a conclusion the week after we get back from the Memorial Day break. I understand that this morning we will have about four amendments, two on the Republican side, and two on the Democratic side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1189 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on behalf of the Senator from Colorado, Senator ALLARD, I believe there is an amendment at the desk, No. 1189.

I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendments be set aside and ask for the immediate consideration of that amendment, No. 1189.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for Mr. ALLARD, proposes an amendment numbered 1189 to amendment No. 1150.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To eliminate the preference given to people who entered the United States illegally over people seeking to enter the country legally in the merit-based evaluation system for visas)

In section 203(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(1)(A)), as amended by section 502, in the table in that section, strike the items relating to the Supplemental schedule for Zs.

AMENDMENT NO. 1250 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, at this time, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment, No. 1189, and ask for the immediate consideration of my amendment No. 1250, which I believe is at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) proposes an amendment numbered 1250 to amendment No. 1150.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To address documentation of employment and to make an amendment with respect to mandatory disclosure of information)

In section 601(i)(2)(C) (relating to other documents)—

(1) strike clause (VI) (relating to sworn affidavits);

(2) in clause (V), strike the semicolon at the end and insert a period; and

(3) in clause (IV), add "and" at the end.

Strike section 604 (relating to mandatory disclosure of information) and insert the following:

SEC. 604. MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, no Federal agency or

bureau, or any officer or employee of such agency or bureau, may—

(1) use the information furnished by the applicant pursuant to an application filed under section 601 and 602, for any purpose, other than to make a determination on the application;

(2) make any publication through which the information furnished by any particular applicant can be identified; or

(3) permit anyone other than the sworn officers, employees or contractors of such agency, bureau, or approved entity, as approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security, to examine individual applications that have been filed.

(b) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall provide the information furnished pursuant to an application filed under section 601 and 602, and any other information derived from such furnished information, to—

(1) a law enforcement entity, intelligence agency, national security agency, component of the Department of Homeland Security, court, or grand jury in connection with a criminal investigation or prosecution or a national security investigation or prosecution, in each instance about an individual suspect or group of suspects, when such information is requested by such entity;

(2) a law enforcement entity, intelligence agency, national security agency, or component of the Department of Homeland Security in connection with a duly authorized investigation of a civil violation, in each instance about an individual suspect or group of suspects, when such information is requested by such entity; or

(3) an official coroner for purposes of affirmatively identifying a deceased individual, whether or not the death of such individual resulted from a crime.

(c) INAPPLICABILITY AFTER DENIAL.—The limitations under subsection (a)—

(1) shall apply only until an application filed under section 601 and 602 is denied and all opportunities for administrative appeal of the denial have been exhausted; and

(2) shall not apply to the use of the information furnished pursuant to such application in any removal proceeding or other criminal or civil case or action relating to an alien whose application has been granted that is based upon any violation of law committed or discovered after such grant.

(d) CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, information concerning whether the applicant has at any time been convicted of a crime may be used or released for immigration enforcement and law enforcement purposes.

(e) AUDITING AND EVALUATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary may audit and evaluate information furnished as part of any application filed under sections 601 and 602, any application to extend such status under section 601(k), or any application to adjust status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under section 602, for purposes of identifying fraud or fraud schemes, and may use any evidence detected by means of audits and evaluations for purposes of investigating, prosecuting or referring for prosecution, denying, or terminating immigration benefits.

(f) USE OF INFORMATION IN PETITIONS AND APPLICATIONS SUBSEQUENT TO ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If the Secretary has adjusted an alien's status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to section 602, then at any time thereafter the Secretary may use the information furnished by the alien in the application for adjustment of status or in the applications for status pursuant to sections 601 or 602 to make a

determination on any petition or application.

(g) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Whoever knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000.

(h) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the use, or release, for immigration enforcement purposes of information contained in files or records of the Secretary or Attorney General pertaining to an applications filed under sections 601 or 602, other than information furnished by an applicant pursuant to the application, or any other information derived from the application, that is not available from any other source.

(i) REFERENCES.—References in this section to section 601 or 602 are references to sections 601 and 602 of this Act and the amendments made by those sections.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we have been on this immigration bill now, by some accounts, for 5 days. I will note that we started with a vote on cloture on the motion to proceed at, I believe, 5:30 Monday afternoon. We had Tuesday on the bill, we had Wednesday on the bill, we had Thursday on the bill; here we are on Friday.

My understanding is that the agreement between the parties is that I will be only allowed to offer one additional amendment, in addition to the one currently pending. I understand that limitation, but I want to make clear that I think it sends a bad signal in terms of where this bill is headed in the long run because, all along, while I applaud the majority leader and the minority leader for their willingness to give us an additional week on this bill after the recess, I am worried that because of the slow progress we are making on these amendments, particularly on getting an opportunity to vote on amendments—for example, the one I laid down early on this week—we are going to find ourselves in for a train wreck the week after the recess, when the amendments that have been filed will need to be considered. I am afraid there will be an effort to try to prevent important amendments from being considered.

Let me give you a little context for my concerns. As we all know, this bill was negotiated largely behind closed doors by a bipartisan group of Senators. I have to say that, in many respects, the product we have before us is better than the bill that passed last year, although I could not support it in the end because I have amendments I think are needed to improve it. To give you some context about the need for a robust debate and the freedom to offer amendments and to consider various points of view other than those reflected behind those closed doors, I went back to look at the Judiciary Committee last year, which considered the original McCain-Kennedy bill. There were 62 amendments filed in the Judiciary Committee. The present occupant of the chair knows, as a member of that Committee, it is a very hard-working Committee that considers a lot of important and contentious issues. That committee was by-

passed through the process by which this bill has come to the floor this year.

Just an observation. Last year, there were 62 amendments filed in the Judiciary Committee alone that went through a process that was not observed this year. So far, by my current count, there have been 107 amendments filed to the present bill. We have had seven—count them—rollcall votes on amendments so far this week. I don't see any way, short of an attempt to try to cut off debate and to cut off the offering of amendments the week we return, we are going to be able to get through 107 filed amendments.

I think it is important, for a variety of reasons, that we continue to have a robust debate and the freedom to offer amendments because, for the reasons I mentioned a moment ago, this product was largely negotiated behind closed doors by a bipartisan group of Senators. Most of the Members of the Senate have not had a chance to study this bill in great detail, until the final legislative text was prepared by legislative counsel a couple of days ago.

This is an enormously complex issue. The bill has a lot of different moving parts. We bypassed the committee process. My hope is—and this is my plea to our leadership—that we continue to see the kind of expansive opportunities that have been provided so far, with 2 weeks set aside for the debate and to have an opportunity to offer amendments and to have votes on those amendments.

I will point out that on the last bill, which ended up being the Hagel-Martinez compromise, there were 30 rollcall votes, according to my notes. We have had seven so far on this bill, and here we find ourselves on Friday and we have one more week scheduled by the majority leader. I am very concerned that we will not be able to get due consideration of all of the various points of view, and an opportunity to freely offer amendments and get rollcall votes on those amendments that I believe are very important. It is even more important, if it is possible, in this particular legislation.

As my colleague from Colorado knows, he and I were both present during many of the negotiations that have led up to this bill, even though ultimately he agreed to the product, but I could not. That this is an enormously emotional and contentious issue. I bet Senators have gotten more phone calls, e-mails, and correspondence about this issue than virtually anything else that has come before the Senate. It is extraordinarily important to the democratic process and the legislative process to allow people to present their points of view.

We are here as 100 people representing 300 million people. We need to make sure that not only the opinions and points of view of the elites and people who can hire high-priced lobbyists are considered; we need to make sure the views of the American people

are considered, given an opportunity for airing and, ultimately, we all respect the process by which these matters are put to votes, and then we respect the right of the majority to make the decision and we move forward.

Anything that would even hint of cutting off the opportunity for the American people to have a full airing of their views, and limiting it to a handful of amendments that have been advocated by lobbyists and other people representing the elites in Washington, DC, I think would be a terrible mistake.

Mr. President, I want to advise my colleague from Colorado of this. There has been a previous agreement that we would be allowed to offer two amendments, and that other amendments would not be allowed to be pending.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and send amendment No. 1238 to the desk, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will object, there was an agreement reached between the Republican leader and the majority leader that there would be two amendments offered on each side today. The Senator from Texas has offered one amendment on behalf of Senator ALLARD, and he has offered a second amendment on his behalf. If I may further comment in responding to some of his suggestions—

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I reclaim my time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. SALAZAR. I want to place this in context. The fact is that there has been a tremendous amount of work that has already been going on in this Chamber during this last week. I inquire, without losing my place at the podium, of the parliamentary situation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas has the floor on his unanimous consent request.

Mr. SALAZAR. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I expected the distinguished Senator from Colorado to lodge an objection to my amendment.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I did object to a third amendment that the Senator from Texas wanted to submit.

Mr. CORNYN. Reclaiming my right to the floor, that is my understanding. I wish to make clear that he has objected, and I wish to make clear that I was not a party to any agreement that would limit us to the number of amendments we would offer today, but I respect that. I offer the amendment to make this point: There are at least 107 amendments that remain to be brought forward and considered. Here we are on Friday completing the first

week of what has been set aside as 2 weeks for the consideration of perhaps the most important domestic issue confronting our country today. There will be no votes today. Colleagues are returning either home or off on various travels around the world, and we are here with the most important domestic issue confronting our country today and really not proceeding at a pace that would give us any realistic expectation of getting this matter completed in the way I think this matter needs to be treated.

I understand and I respect the Senator from Colorado making an objection to my offering further amendments, but we all can see what is going on here, and I think it portends some very disconcerting things when we are not proceeding at a pace we need to in order to actually get the business of the American people taken care of on this important issue.

I expect if I offer other amendments that there likewise will be an objection, so I will not at this time make further offerings of amendments, but I do have in my hand further amendments—amendment No. 1208, which is an amendment I would offer if possible. I also have another amendment, amendment No. 1247, which deals with State impact assistance fees.

One of the reasons people are so upset about the Federal Government's complete failure to deal with border security and enforce our immigration laws is that most of the consequences fall on local taxpayers. In my State of Texas, the Federal Government has issued a mandate that says no matter who shows up in your schools, your communities, or in your hospitals, you have to treat them, you have to provide services to them, but the Federal Government doesn't pay for it. The Federal Government needs to pay for these unfunded mandates, and this State impact assistance fee amendment will provide that kind of relief to local taxpayers.

I understand where we are, and I respect there has been this agreement between the leaders, and I understand the Senator needs to object, but I reiterate, we need to get moving. We need to have more amendments offered. We need to have more votes and less time off without votes, as we are obviously having today.

I will now return to the amendment that I offered this morning and that was allowed. Let me return now to my amendment No. 1250 and explain what this amendment does provide. My hope is that we can, when we return on Monday—actually, I guess it will be Tuesday, June 5—that we will have an opportunity for an early vote on this amendment as well as the pending amendment I have that will prevent rewarding those who have abused our laws and who have really thumbed their nose at our legal system, who have been ordered deported and who have simply gone on the lam, melted into the American landscape and defied

the lawful orders of our courts. These are people who have been ordered deported, have actually been deported, but then they returned to the United States in violation of our immigration laws, both of which constitute felonies. It is my hope that I can get a vote on that amendment, which has been pending now for several days, soon after we return.

It is my understanding our colleagues are working on some side-by-side agreement to provide some cover for those who don't vote for my amendment, but I think we will have to evaluate that when we see it. I regret the fact that we have not been able to get votes on our amendments because of objections primarily on the other side.

There is a major flaw in this legislation, and that flaw is that it will, unless corrected, repeat a fundamental mistake that was made by Congress when Congress last passed massive legalization of undocumented immigrants in 1986. The American people do not expect too much of us, but they do expect that we will not repeat past mistakes.

I remember the definition of "insanity" once offered was that you do the same thing over and over again expecting a different outcome. That is the definition of "insanity." This would be a terrible mistake if we pass this legislation without correcting a major flaw in the 1986 amnesty bill that was passed by Congress, after having learned from experience what the consequences of that flaw are.

Under this bill, anyone in the United States in violation of our immigration laws can come forward and apply for legal status with impunity. Quite simply, the Department of Homeland Security is prohibited from using internally all of the information from the Z applications as well as sharing information with relevant law enforcement authorities. For example, if an applicant comes forward and is denied legalization because of some disqualifying feature, this legislation, as currently written without my amendment, will prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the immigration enforcement authorities, from using the information from that application to apprehend that person.

What we learned from the 1986 amnesty was what the New York Times said—that it created the largest immigration fraud in the history of the United States. That is the mistake my amendment will attempt to correct. As we know from the general counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service under President Clinton, the statutory restrictions on sharing information and providing confidentiality of the applications of those who apply for amnesty contributed enormously to that fraud.

The population that will benefit from this legislation should be treated with no more confidentiality than any other classes of immigrants. We don't afford

this robust confidentiality protection to other immigrant classes, such as asylees or battered women or those applying for temporary protected status, so I ask: Why the double standard?

When an asylum seeker applies for legal status, that asylum seeker must submit an application and return at a later date for a decision. If that asylum seeker is denied, he or she is taken into custody or provided a notice to appear on the spot based on the information provided by the applicant.

The proponents of this legislation will tell us that without these guarantees of confidentiality, those who are already in the United States in violation of our immigration laws will not come forward and seek legal status. But I must ask: Are we not granting the biggest benefit that can ever be conferred to an immigrant population; that is, legal status after they have violated our immigration laws? And to be clear, we are talking about those who cannot even establish that they meet the minimum requirements to get this valuable benefit and, even worse, have flouted our immigration and criminal laws. Why should we treat individuals who are denied a Z visa with broad privacy protections by the mere filing of an application for that status? Why should they be treated differently from everybody else?

The proponents will say they do exempt from confidentiality those individuals who commit fraud or who are part of some other scheme in connection with their application. Of course, this is the very least we should be doing. But this bill does not go nearly far enough to effectively enforce our immigration laws and protect the American people from criminals and others who might do us harm. For example, at page 311 of this bill, in section 604(b) labeled "Exceptions to Confidentiality," the drafters of the compromise have chosen to protect aliens who are criminal absconders who have not been removed from the United States. You may be asking: What is an absconder? Quite simply, an absconder is someone who has ignored a final court-ordered deportation and can be prosecuted for a separate felony offense which is punishable by up to 4 years in prison. So the drafters of this underlying bill have chosen to protect that class of people who have not been removed from the United States.

We all know that hundreds of thousands of immigrants come across our borders each year, many legally, a lot more illegally. But what most Americans would be shocked to hear is that according to recent estimates, almost 700,000 of those who have been ordered deported have simply failed to comply with that court order. How many Americans think it is OK to ignore the lawful order of one of our courts? How many Americans, after receiving a subpoena from a court, ignore it and simply skip the court date?

As my colleagues know, I have offered a separate amendment that would

categorically bar fugitive aliens from receiving amnesty. I believe this is an issue of fundamental fairness and the integrity of the rule of law.

In exchange for the largest legalization program in our Nation's history, we should be able to say without any doubt that for any person who applies for and is denied a Z visa on any grounds, we will authorize Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take that application, arrest that individual, and to deport them as not qualifying under the laws of the land. But the bill the Senate is considering would turn a blind eye to those who would apply for this amnesty and are denied. This bill would allow them to slide back into the shadows—the very problem we are trying to solve by this bill.

Ask a random citizen on the street today to answer this simple question: Someone who has violated our immigration laws comes forward to apply for legal status under this bill. Because the applicant does not satisfy one of the criteria for being awarded legal status, the applicant is denied a Z visa. What happens to that individual under the present bill if my amendment is not adopted? I don't think we could find 1 out of 100 who would say something other than: Well, they should go home. And I suspect the majority would say they should be arrested on the spot and be deported. Yet the so-called confidentiality provisions in this bill will prevent law enforcement officials from using information on the application to locate and remove a significant population of those who cannot qualify for a Z visa because they are simply disqualified by law.

This is, in essence, providing an opportunity to significant categories of individuals whose applications are considered and rejected to slide back into the shadows and to defy our laws. This is the very problem we have been told this legislation was designed to fix. Yet it is designed in reality for failure unless this amendment is accepted.

The whole point of this exercise, we continue to be told, is to enhance U.S. security by bringing people out of the shadows and into the open, to allow people who want to cooperate with the law to do so, while allowing our law enforcement officials to focus their efforts on drug traffickers, on criminals, and others who may come here to do us harm. But this bill would draw those who have entered our country in violation of our immigration laws or who have overstayed in violation of those laws to do so and to slide back into the shadows without allowing the law to be enforced.

I would like to remind my colleagues of our Nation's recent history with a massive legalization program and the consequences of prohibitions of Federal agencies on information sharing. As I have stated, reasonable observers have concluded that the 1986 amnesty was rife with fraud. There was an article written in the *New York Times*, I be-

lieve it was 1989, and it called this one of the most massive frauds in American history.

We know, for example, from the 9/11 Commission staff statements that Mohammed and Abouhalima, conspirators in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, were granted green cards, or legal permanent resident status, under the special agricultural worker program, which was an amnesty program created by the 1986 bill. Under this special agricultural worker program, a key component of that 1986 amnesty bill, applicants had to provide evidence that they had worked on perishable crops for at least 90 days between May 1, 1985, and May 1, 1986. Their residence did not have to be continuous or unlawful. Nearly 1 million of these individuals who applied received legal permanent resident status under this amnesty, twice the number of foreigners normally employed in agriculture at that time according to the 9/11 Commission and staff.

I would like to make one last significant point about the ill-conceived confidentiality protections contained in this compromise bill. Under this bill we are considering, Congress would even prohibit the use of information from the sworn third-party affidavits that are one of the documents that can prove eligibility. Let me say that again. Under this bill, you can get some third party—there is no requirement of who they might be: a friend, a family member, anybody—to sign an affidavit attesting that you were lawfully present—or that you were present, not lawfully but you were present—in the United States as of a certain date in order to qualify for benefits under this bill.

We already know from well-documented prosecutions of document vendors and other legalization cases that the type of documents submitted, especially these kinds of sworn affidavits, without limitation, were used to further fraud. At the very least, we should not repeat the mistakes of 1986 by allowing the continued use of sworn affidavits by those who have already shown their willingness to violate our laws in order to gain the benefits under this bill.

My amendment takes care of that concern because it will allow those sort of false documents to be investigated and, where necessary, prosecuted. Those who engage in cottage industries of massive fraud on a huge scale can be investigated by our authorities and prosecuted where warranted. My amendment takes care of that concern.

We know one thing, criminals and terrorists have abused and will continue to seek ways to abuse our immigration system in order to enter and remain in our country. I regret to say that the bill we are debating today fails to give law enforcement the commonsense tools that would prevent terrorists and others who seek to do us harm from exploiting the vulnerabilities inherent in any massive

legalization program. My colleagues may say there is a confidentiality exception for national security and for fraud, but to rely solely on these narrow exceptions is to engage in wishful thinking and, as far as I am concerned, ignores history and hard experience and the terrorist and criminal threats that we face.

Why would we leave any of this to chance? Why would we turn a blind eye to the type of abuses that we have seen happen in the past and risk it happening again in this bill? I submit that any rejected application not only will provide valuable information to assist in deporting a person that is not entitled under our own laws to the benefits under this bill but may provide law enforcement with a valuable lead that they were previously unaware of, a lead that could—and this is not too much of a stretch—potentially save lives and, at the very least, improve public safety.

Failure to allow law enforcement to connect the dots is a deadly mistake. I have heard many of my colleagues promise never would that happen again. So I urge those who are truly serious about their commitment to make sure the mistakes of the past don't occur again, and that we don't expose the American people to an unnecessary risk and ultimately lose their confidence by enacting a law that cannot be enforced. If we do that, I think we will not have done our job. So I urge all of us who are serious about this commitment to support my amendment to make this crucial improvement to this legislation.

Mr. President, I have to make one correction. Apparently, affidavits are not allowed from relatives but are from nonrelatives. So you can't get your brother-in-law, I guess, to sign an affidavit saying when you were in the United States, but you can get a stranger on the street or someone else to sign an affidavit saying, yes, JOHN CORNYN was present in the United States as of this date. What we want to do is bring a little sunshine to this process to allow our law enforcement officials to do what they have sworn to do, and which they do so nobly and so valiantly day in and day out, and that is investigate crime, bring those who break our laws to justice, to root out fraud, and to make sure our laws do work.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator CORNYN for his tireless effort and his great knowledge of the complexities of the issues involved in any comprehensive immigration reform. I know he has worked hard to try to craft a comprehensive bill but one that will actually work. That is the question.

I know the Senator has developed great concerns about that and has offered a number of amendments, some

excellent law enforcement amendments, drawn, I know, from his experience as a former attorney general in Texas and a member of the supreme court in Texas. I believe, as a former Federal prosecutor, those amendments are essential to having a successful immigration program.

I would like to hear why it is that now 3 days into this bill he has not been able to get a vote on those amendments and about other amendments that he has offered this morning, whether he has been successful in even calling them up for consideration.

Mr. CORNYN. Well, Mr. President, I appreciate the question from the distinguished Senator from Alabama, who was a former U.S. attorney, former attorney general of his State, as the occupant of the chair was of his State, as was, as a matter of fact, Senator SALAZAR. It seems as if we have a former attorneys general convention right here on the floor of the Senate, all of us engaged in law enforcement actions most of our professional lives.

To answer the Senator's question, I am simply at a loss to understand why, on the single most important domestic issue facing our country today—our broken borders and our immigration system. This is designed to fail because of these barriers of information sharing that have been erected and because of the confidentiality provisions that have been slapped on affidavits and other evidence of fraud that might help us root out and investigate wrongdoers and bring them to justice. I think this is the main reason people are so profoundly skeptical of what we are doing today.

I don't think any of us should be under any illusion that if we erect this nice, pretty superstructure that we talk about, that the elements of the bill that are meritorious—things such as triggers, things such as enhanced border security, effective worksite verification—if we undermine it, if we simply cut the legs out from under the ability of law enforcement officials to enforce this law in a way that will see it collapse again, like the 1986 amnesty bill did, and we don't learn from that hard experience and improve this bill and eliminate those errors and those flaws, I think we will have failed the essential purpose for which we were sent here—to represent the American people, to see that the laws are respected, to see that law and order are reestablished.

I really do believe the reason people are so upset about this issue is because they see rampant lawlessness and disregard for the law in our immigration system. They recognize that in a post-9/11 world that our broken borders can allow economic migrants to come across.

We all understand why people want to come to America. It is the same reason they always have: they want a better life. We understand that. But we have to know who is coming into our country and the reasons they come here. We have offered generous temporary worker programs under this bill

so they could come legally, so they could be screened, so law enforcement could focus on the criminals, potential terrorists, and others who want to do us harm. But why in the world, I would ask my colleagues, would we want to leave these flaws in the bill which prohibit our law enforcement officials from doing their job, from investigating and rooting out fraud and criminality and bringing wrongdoers to justice?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for another question?

Mr. CORNYN. I will.

Mr. SESSIONS. I would just ask this question, through the Chair. Is it similar to the bill last year? Did they not improve the language that basically said if you file a false document for a benefit under this bill, that is really not subject to being examined and investigated and prosecuted?

If an American filed a false claim for hurricane relief or any government benefit, that is a violation of title XVIII, section 1001. I have prosecuted it many times. But persons who are here illegally, noncitizens, can file false statements and then there is a mechanism that blocks that from being actually investigated and perhaps prosecuted?

Mr. CORNYN. I would answer the distinguished Senator by saying there have been some modest steps in improving the flaws in last year's bill. As we have discussed privately and on the Senate floor, I think we ought to give some credit where credit is due to see this bill strengthened over the flawed bill that passed the Senate last year.

But to answer his question, there are still confidentiality provisions in this bill which would allow fraud to go undetected, uninvestigated, and not prosecuted. I don't know why in the world we would possibly stand silently and allow that to happen. I am not going to, and that is the reason I have offered this amendment.

I see on the Senate floor the other distinguished Senator from Colorado, my friend Mr. ALLARD, who has also offered other important legislation to allow information sharing between law enforcement personnel. It was as a result of the Swift meatpacking plant raids that Senator ALLARD held meetings on, which I attended, that we learned the very tool that our Federal Government has given employers to confirm eligibility to work is flawed, and Social Security information cannot be shared with the Department of Homeland Security.

So we find people, such as the Swift meatpacking plant operators, using the Basic Pilot to check whether a person shows up and says: My name is JOHN CORNYN, and here is JOHN CORNYN's Social Security number. They run it through Basic Pilot. It says, yes, that is JOHN CORNYN's Social Security number, but the fact is, it is KEN SALAZAR using JOHN CORNYN's Social Security number, or somebody else, and it doesn't root out that kind of fraud.

What we need to do is make sure all manner of fraud and illegality are ca-

pable of being fully investigated, fully prosecuted, where warranted, and that our laws are enforced. That is the flaw that my amendment seeks to correct. And I continue to believe other amendments that have so far not been allowed to be called up, some 107 that have been filed, when we actually had votes on 30 amendments in last year's bill, and we have only had 7 so far, that we are really not going at the kind of pace at which I would hope we would proceed to be able to amend and improve this bill in a way that we could be proud of and that we would know would actually work.

That, to me, is one of the key pillars upon which this legislation ought to be built: Will it work? Can it be enforced? If it can't, we will have failed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments from my good friend from Texas. I wish to respond to the notion that this Chamber is not taking sufficient time in order to consider the issue of immigration and immigration reform. We have, indeed, been on a very long journey to try to grapple with this issue which, at the base of it, is the fundamental question of national security.

It was last year, for most of the month of May, where this Senate debated a comprehensive immigration reform package. It was an immigration reform package that had gone through the Senate Judiciary Committee and was amended multiple times on the floor of the Senate. Now, for the last many months, perhaps as many as 4 to 5 months, there have been a group of Senators, Republicans and Democrats, working with Secretary Chertoff and Secretary Gutierrez and President Bush to try to come up with a comprehensive immigration reform package, which is now the package that is before this Chamber.

I submit, in response to my good friend from Texas, that there has been ample opportunity for us to deal with the issue of immigration reform and to come up with a system that is, in fact, workable.

On this specific issue, what we have done during this past week is—there have been 23 amendments that have been offered. There have been 13 of those amendments that have been disposed of—7 of those have been disposed of with rollcall votes, 6 of them with voice votes. There were 10 amendments pending as of yesterday; there will be 4 more amendments pending as of today.

At the request of many Republican colleagues, Senator REID agreed it was important for us to take an additional week to be able to fully debate this very complicated and very difficult and very emotional issue on how we move forward with immigration reform. We did not get to a conclusion of this debate this week because Senator REID

thought it important to take another week to fully consider the legislation before us.

Indeed, during the week that Members of the Senate are working back in their districts or doing what they may be doing during this next week, it is going to be another opportunity for Members of the Senate to continue to study the provisions of this legislation. But this legislation was not pulled out of the darkness one day and placed on the floor of the Senate. This legislation was crafted with significant input from both Republican and Democratic Senators and with the guidance of Secretary Chertoff. While it may not be perfect, and while the efforts on the floor of the Senate this week and the week after we return from the Memorial Day break will improve upon the bill, there has been a huge amount of energy that has gone into creating an immigration reform package that will, in fact, work.

At the end of the day, I remind all our colleagues and those who are watching, what is at stake is moving from a system of a broken border and lawlessness that relates to immigration in this country to a system that works. We need to find a solution that will fix those broken borders. We need to find solutions that will, in fact, make sure the laws of the Nation on immigration are enforced.

For 20 years, this country has looked the other way. We are a Nation of laws. We ought to be enforcing the laws as this legislation moves forward, making sure we are going to have the laws and the capacity to enforce those laws in our interior, and we need to have a realistic solution to deal with the 12 million undocumented workers here in America. To those who would be part of the "round them up and deport them" crowd, I remind them that is an unrealistic solution. As the President of the United States said during the last week: To round up 12 million people, to put them on buses and railroads and whatever other way one would want to round up those 12 million people and send them elsewhere is not a realistic solution.

This proposal that is now before the Senate, which was carefully crafted with significant input from the administration and the leadership of the President, is a good way for us to move forward. I hope, as we go on into the week after the Memorial Day work period, at that point in time there will be ample opportunity to have a robust and orderly debate on amendments that my colleagues will bring forth to try to further improve the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1183 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the pending amendments be laid aside, that the Senate turn to consideration of an amendment by Senator CLINTON, amendment No. 1183.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. SALAZAR], for Mrs. CLINTON, for herself, Mr. HAGEL and Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes an amendment numbered 1183 to amendment No. 1150.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reclassify the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives)

On page 238, line 13, strike "567,000" and insert "480,000".

On page 238, line 19, strike "127,000" and insert "40,000".

On page 247, line 1, insert "or the child or spouse of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence" after "United States".

On page 247, line 5, insert "or lawful permanent resident" after "citizen".

On page 247, line 6, insert "or lawful permanent resident" after "citizen".

On page 247, line 6, insert "or lawful permanent resident's" after "citizen's".

On page 247, line 7, insert "or lawful permanent resident" after "citizen".

On page 247, line 8, insert "or lawful permanent resident's" after "citizen's".

On page 247, line 9, insert "or lawful permanent resident's" after "citizen's".

On page 247, line 15, insert "or lawful permanent resident's" after "citizen's".

On page 247, line 24, insert "or lawful permanent resident" after "citizen".

On page 248, strike lines 2 through 11.

On page 248, line 13, strike the first "(3)" and insert "(2)".

On page 249, line 1, strike "(4)" and insert "(3)".

On page 250, between lines 42 and 43, insert the following:

(5) RULES FOR DETERMINING WHETHER CERTAIN ALIENS ARE IMMEDIATE RELATIVES.—Section 201(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(f)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking "paragraphs (2) and (3)," and inserting "paragraph (2)"; and

(ii) by striking "(b)(2)(A)(i)" and inserting "(b)(2)";

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking "(b)(2)(A)" and inserting "(b)(2)".

(6) NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN STATE.—Section 202 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (4); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(7) ALLOCATION OF IMMIGRATION VISAS.—Section 203(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "subsections (a)(2)(A) and (d)" and inserting "subsection (d)";

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking "becomes available for such alien (or, in the case of subsection (d), the date on which an immigrant visa number became available for the alien's parent)", and inserting "became available for the alien's parent"; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "applicable";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "The petition" and all that follows through the period and inserting "The petition described in this paragraph is a petition filed under section

204 for classification of the alien parent under subsection (a) or (b)."; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking "subsections (a)(2)(A) and (d)" and inserting "subsection (d)".

(8) PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING IMMIGRANT STATUS.—Section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by inserting "or legal permanent resident" after "citizen" each place that term appears; and

(bb) in subclause (II)(aa)(CC)(bbb), by inserting "or legal permanent resident" after "citizenship";

(II) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by inserting "or legal permanent resident" after "citizen" each place that term appears; and

(bb) by inserting "or legal permanent resident" after "citizenship";

(III) in clause (v)(I), by inserting "or legal permanent resident" after "citizen"; and

(IV) in clause (vi)—

(aa) by inserting "or legal permanent resident status" after "renunciation of citizenship"; and

(bb) by inserting "or legal permanent resident" after "abuser's citizenship";

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (J) as subparagraphs (B) through (I), respectively;

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking "subparagraph (A)(iii), (A)(iv), (B)(ii), or (B)(iii)" and inserting "clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (A)"; and

(v) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking "or clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (B)"; and

(II) by striking "under subparagraphs (C) and (D)" and inserting "under subparagraphs (B) and (C)";

(B) by striking subsection (a)(2);

(C) in subsection (h), by striking "or a petition filed under subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii)"; and

(D) in subsection (j), by striking "subsection (a)(1)(D)" and inserting "subsection (a)(1)(C)".

AMENDMENT NO. 1202 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I now ask the pending amendment be set aside and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the amendment of Senator OBAMA, amendment No. 1202.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. SALAZAR], for Mr. OBAMA, for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes amendment numbered 1202 to amendment No. 1150.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a date on which the authority of the section relating to the increasing of American competitiveness through a merit-based evaluation system for immigrants shall be terminated)

At the end of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 509. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amendments described in subsection (b) shall be effective

during the 5-year period ending on September 30 of the fifth fiscal year following the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted.

(b) PROVISIONS.—The amendments described in this subsection are the following:

(1) The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) of section 501.

(2) The amendments made by subsections (b), (c), and (e) of section 502.

(3) The amendments made by subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (g) of section 503.

(4) The amendments made by subsection (a) of section 504.

(c) WORLDWIDE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATION.—Section 201(d) (8 U.S.C. 1151(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATION.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), there shall be a temporary supplemental allocation of visas as follows:

“(A) For the first 5 fiscal years in which aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(Z) are eligible for an immigrant visa, the number calculated pursuant to section 503(f)(2) of the Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Reform Act of 2007.

“(B) In the sixth fiscal year in which aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(Z) are eligible for an immigrant visa, the number calculated pursuant to section 503(f)(3) of Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Reform Act of 2007.

“(C) Starting in the seventh fiscal year in which aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(Z) are eligible for an immigrant visa, the number equal to the number of aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(Z) who became aliens admitted for permanent residence based on the merit-based evaluation system in the prior fiscal year until no further aliens described in section 101(a)(15)(Z) adjust status.

“(4) TERMINATION OF TEMPORARY SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOCATION.—The temporary supplemental allocation of visas described in paragraph (3) shall terminate when the number of visas calculated pursuant to paragraph (3)(C) is zero.

“(5) LIMITATION.—The temporary supplemental visas described in paragraph (3) shall not be awarded to any individual other than an individual described in section 101(a)(15)(Z).”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective on October 1 of the sixth fiscal year following the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I see my colleague and friend from Colorado, Senator ALLARD, on the floor to speak to his amendment.

I yield the floor to Senator ALLARD.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am certainly going to yield to Senator ALLARD, if I may make a brief—about 1-minute—response to my friend, Senator SALAZAR.

I have in my hand the bill that was actually laid down by the majority leader and others. It is 789 pages. This is not actually the bill we are on. As you know, and as my colleagues know, there has been a substitute bill that was not put in final legislative language until Tuesday. Those who did not participate in the closed-door meetings that produced what has been sometimes called the “grand bargain”—while I have been clear to give them credit where credit is due—I think they would appreciate the fact that not everybody has had access to

the same information. Certainly not all Members of the Senate and our staffs have had access to the legislative text we are actually voting on and to which we are actually offering amendments.

As the Senator from Colorado acknowledged, we all know how complicated this subject is. It is enormously detailed. We are doing our best to try to keep up. My hope is we can continue to work together to try to work our way through this. I think that is the spirit in which we are all trying to work.

Nobody wants to blow this up. We all want to find a solution. We have some differences on what those solutions might be, but this is where those differences are debated, where the process allows amendments, suggested changes and improvements to be offered, and then in the end we will vote. But I wished to express my concerns that we be given the opportunity to do a good, conscientious job on behalf of our constituents, on behalf of the American people, in what I believe is the single most important domestic issue confronting our country today. That is the sum and substance of my part.

I am glad to yield to the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Senator ALLARD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues who have worked on the compromise committee. Senator CORNYN from Texas has done yeoman's work on this issue of immigration. He has a good understanding of the bill. I appreciate it. My colleague from Colorado, Senator SALAZAR, has also worked hard on this particular piece of legislation.

I wish to say before Senator CORNYN leaves the floor, how much I appreciate his efforts and appreciate the fact that he did put forward, this morning, my amendment dealing with the supplemental schedule for Zs, that is the Z visas, because I think this is an important issue to debate. I appreciate him doing it for me on my behalf.

I am very disappointed the leadership has limited us to only two amendments that we can call up today. I have a total of about five that I am working on. I have four ready to be called up. I was not a member of the compromise committee. I know Senator CORNYN is a very honorable Senator. Whenever I inquired of him as to what was going on in the conference committee, the bipartisan committee, he didn't believe he could share that information with me because he believed he was working within the committee.

The vast majority of us are looking at some of these issues for the first time. Some of them are issues that have been coming up before the Senate from the previous debate and they are old hat. But the fact is, this is a new bill. In my office on Saturday morning, I got a rough draft with things penciled in, in the margins. That is what comes

out of the committee. Then, as mentioned, on Monday night the substitute amendment was finally filed in the Senate. It wasn't until Tuesday that we got a final print of the bill. I don't know how many pages are in the final bill—I think it would be close to 1,000 pages in standard format. I do not believe I have had an adequate opportunity to have input. I was assured by the leadership that there is going to be plenty of opportunity for amendments—don't worry. But here we are on Friday and we are limited to two that we can call up.

I have four here at the desk that I have filed, but I think the people need to understand, because you file them doesn't mean you get to bring them up and have a vote on them. They have to be made pending. That is what Senator CORNYN has done to help me out on one of my amendments. I thank him for that effort.

First, let me comment a little bit about the general direction of this legislation. In current law we have what we call chain migration. What happens with chain migration is you come into the United States, and once you become legally here in the United States, that allows members of your extended family to follow you in.

We are moving more toward a merit-based system, which is a direction in which we need to move. We cannot absolutely go all merit based, but I do think it is moving us in the right direction because we do have real needs out there. We need to identify those needs in the workplace. If we need to fill those with immigrants, we need to give business an opportunity to do that. On the other hand, probably more important than anything is we must make sure we have accountability in the system so we know who is coming into the country and for what purpose; that is, they want to have jobs or they want to be Americans. We don't want people coming into this country because they are terrorists and they want to destroy our society. We don't want people coming into this country because they are part of a drug cartel or they are smuggling weapons—in or out. We do need to secure our borders. I think that is the primary thing we need to accomplish. There are provisions in this bill that make me believe our borders will be more secure than as a result of the previous legislation—certainly more secure than what we are seeing today on our borders.

I do, however, have a number of concerns with the bill. To address one of those concerns, I introduced amendment No. 1189, which is my amendment that Senator CORNYN called up, and that refers to the supplemental schedule for Zs. This section, in my point of view, is a great inequity in the bill because it rewards lawbreakers over law abiders.

Ironically, this inequity is in the same section of the bill that rewards would-be immigrants based on merit. The only thing that breaking the law should merit, in my view, is jail time.

To be clear, I strongly support curbing chain migration and moving our system to one based on merit. However, I believe all applicants under the merit-based system should be on a level playing field.

By now, most of us are familiar with the bill's merit-based system that awards points to immigrants based on criteria such as employment, education, and knowledge of English.

What many may not know is the enormous advantage the bill's point system gives to people who have violated our immigration laws relative to people who are seeking to enter this country legally. I am referring to the so-called supplemental schedule for Zs. This separate schedule awards up to 50 bonus points, points that are not available to people who have never broken our immigration laws, to holders of Z visas seeking permanent status.

Holders of Z visas are, by definition, lawbreakers. In fact, this bill specifically requires that an alien prove he or she broke the law in order to even be eligible for the Z visas. In effect, this supplemental schedule rewards people who entered this country illegally. Worse yet, it disadvantages other qualified people who seek to enter this country legally.

The bill's stated purpose of adopting a merit-based system is that the United States benefits from a workforce that has diverse skills, experience, and training. I happen to agree. I have stated that before. I am simply not convinced that a history of breaking the law contributes to this goal more than education and experience. My amendment simply strikes the special schedule that makes people who have violated our immigration laws eligible for points that others are not eligible for. I strike that provision.

I just strike that provision so it puts everyone on a level playing field. Visa holders would, however, still be eligible, up to their 100 points we provided in there under the regular schedule—the exact same number as anybody else.

We should not reward those who have broken the law, and we certainly should not punish those who have abided by the law. I urge my colleagues to support that amendment when it comes up for a vote.

Now, I have other amendments I very much would like to put forth. I understand that if I were to call them up at this particular point in time, I would put my colleague from Colorado in a terrible position, that he would have to object to my amendment when I ask unanimous consent to call it up. I don't want to do that. But what I do want to do is I want to talk about these particular amendments for a moment. Even though they have been introduced, I am not going to have an opportunity to call them up. I think these amendments are important provisions that would add to the bill in a positive way.

One amendment I have is number 1187. Obviously I am not going to have

a chance to call it up today. This particular amendment addresses the issue of identity theft and tries to improve the legislation at hand by protecting the identity of hard-working Americans, which is of the utmost importance to me.

By way of background, this identity theft issue was called to my attention when we had some identity thefts that were pretty rampant in northern Colorado, close to where I live in Greeley, and I have discovered it is a rampant problem throughout the country.

Now, again, I commend the drafters of the bill for including my proposal to allow for information sharing between the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security in the current bill. I had an opportunity to meet with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary Chertoff, I had an opportunity to meet with the Secretary of Commerce, Secretary Gutierrez, and I had an opportunity to meet with my colleagues, including my colleague from Colorado, on this most important issue. I think that including that provision in there where we have now information sharing between Social Security and Homeland Security in the bill is going to be very helpful for us to identify identity theft. If anything else, the real victims in this are people who get their ID stolen, and it is a price they pay for the rest of their lives. It tracks with them all the way until they are receiving their Social Security benefits. So it was a critical first step to get this provision in the bill so that we can address the issue of identity theft and help many innocent victims.

Contributing to the problem is the fact that under current law, Government agencies are prevented from sharing information with other Government agencies. After 9/11, one of our stated purposes was to break down the walls between the various agencies. Well, here we are. We find there is one that is remaining, between Social Security and Homeland Security. The bill addresses this issue. Going forward, when we find two names on the same Social Security number, Social Security can contact Homeland Security and say: Look, this is a number which has come to us, and we suspect fraud because we have two names on the same number. Then when the employer now calls in to check with Homeland Security about a Social Security number, they can say: Well, we have problems with this particular number. We think this could be an illegal immigrant, and we think you need to further check it out, and we will help you check it out.

Now, this is sort of the program which was in place when we had the raids on Swift & Company in Greeley, CO. But I will talk a little bit more about that later.

According to the Federal Trade Commission 2006 database, victims' identification has been misused to obtain credit cards, bank accounts, loans, and

a long list of other things, including employment fraud. The current national average of employment fraud is 14 percent of all reported identity theft occurrences. Nationally, my home State of Colorado ranks sixth in overall identity theft. Seventeen percent of reported cases involve employment fraud, by the way. Massachusetts ranks 22nd, Pennsylvania 19th, and the FTC designated Arizona as the No. 1 State for identity theft. An estimated 39 percent—almost 40—of those reports involve employment fraud.

That is why it is very important that we address this problem which came up when we had the raid on Swift & Company because what was happening with Swift & Company is they were working with Homeland Security to do what they call a basic pilot. So whenever anybody came in to Swift & Company and asked for a job, their employment application information was sent to Homeland Security. Homeland Security reviewed it and said: That is fine, go ahead and hire them, Swift & Company. Then Swift & Company goes and hires them. Then those very same people they were supposed to have cleared as legal immigrants, they arrested them for being here illegally. Now, if the Federal agencies cannot enforce our immigration laws, how can we expect the employers to comply with the current law? That is why my proposal is so very important. It is important to put sound measures in place now to uncover this identity theft and to prevent further damage to these innocent victims.

Getting back to my amendment at issue today, Amendment 1187—I have not called it up, just introduced it, and I am not sure I am going to get a vote on it. It adds to the list of credentials needed to obtain a Z visa. It is an additive to what is already in this bill.

The underlying bill requires applicants for Z visas to submit a variety of personal information, such as their name and date of birth. My amendment will add one more piece of information that will offer peace of mind to all who have fallen victim to identity theft. It requires the Z visa applicant to disclose all past names and Social Security numbers they have used in their work in the United States.

This will create a documented record of compromised identities. Failure to provide this information will jeopardize the applicant's ability to obtain a Z visa. My amendment would permit Government agencies to share information with other agencies. These agencies may then notify the rightful assignee, alerting the victim that their identity was compromised, allowing the victim to repair their standing with Government agencies and finance and credit, and finally returning a sense of personal security and integrity.

So I think it is important that we address this issue. We must do everything possible to end identity theft. I look

forward to working with my colleagues. I hope I will have an opportunity to call up this amendment so we can vote on it, so we can make it a part of this particular bill, because it is an important aspect of identity theft that is simply not addressed in the bill. I think it adds to what we are trying to do in the bill. I am disappointed that I am not going to be able to move forward on this.

AMENDMENT NO. 1188

Now, Mr. President, I also have another amendment, 1188. Again, that has been introduced. This is an amendment which I have put at the desk which would help prevent further accrual of Social Security benefits by unauthorized workers. Currently, the Social Security Administration does not have real-time information relating to the eligibility of an alien to engage in employment in the United States. Consequently, someone working in the United States on an expired visa continues to accrue Social Security benefits for their unauthorized work.

My amendment, 1188, would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to notify the Commissioner of Social Security when he or she grants, renews, or revokes authority to engage in employment. It then prohibits the Social Security Administration from counting work during that time if an individual, if not a citizen or a national, is unauthorized to work in the United States.

In summary, this amendment simply facilitates the sharing of existing information among Government agencies, again to prevent fraud. It is forward-looking in nature. It does not look back. It does nothing to upset the bill's delicate balance. It is simply a better way of doing things moving forward.

So those are some of the issues I have concern about. I am disappointed again that we have put a limit on amendments. They are meaningful amendments and would add to what would be viewed, I think by most Members of the Senate, as positive in nature in trying to help secure this country's borders, to help protect individuals from identity theft and break down the barriers we have or the firewalls we have between various agencies.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The junior Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I will take a look at the amendment my colleague from Colorado has pending, amendment No. 1189.

I do wish to say this about my colleague from Colorado: He has been a champion for agriculture all his life. He is a fifth-generation Coloradan. He understands what it is like out in the country, coming from a place in Jackson County, Walden, CO, for now five generations.

A concern I have with his amendment, and I will take a further look at it, is that it seems to strike at the heart of the AgJOBS provision of this

legislation. The AgJOBS provision of this legislation is an essential part of the agreement here that we need to move forward and create a system that will provide the labor we need to work on our farms and ranches across America.

In my own State of Colorado, we have approximately 31,000 farms that encompass more than 31 million acres. According to the agribusiness statistics we have, they contribute over \$16 billion to the State's economy. We need to make sure we have the labor that is necessary to work out in those fields so that we do not have the destruction we have seen in Colorado and California and in almost every State that is an agriculturally dependent State.

So one of the concerns I have, and I will take a further look at my colleague's amendment, 1189, but I do voice a preliminary concern, and I do wish to make sure that at the end of the day, when we have comprehensive immigration reform adopted here in this country, that the provisions of AgJOBS—we have had as many as 67 cosponsors on that legislation—that AgJOBS in fact does remain a part of this legislation. That is legislation which has been worked on for a very long time in a bipartisan fashion, led by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN as well as Senator LARRY CRAIG. It is a good piece of legislation that we need to deal with in order to make sure we have the labor requirements met for farmers and ranchers across America.

Mr. President, I know our colleague from Alabama is waiting to speak, and then in the wings I see waiting Senator MCCAIN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to just take a moment, and I see my colleague, Senator MCCAIN, is here and prepared to speak, and I will be pleased to yield the floor and allow him an opportunity to speak.

One of the problems we have with this legislation is we have gotten out of sync about our normal process on how legislation becomes law, how it should become law, what should be a part of it, particularly when it is such a massively important, broad, comprehensive bill that purports to be moving through the Senate.

My colleague used a phrase that has been used frequently, that he was concerned about perhaps this amendment because it might affect an essential part of the agreement. Who made an agreement? I have not made an agreement. The American people haven't been in on an agreement. We have not gone through the normal process of moving an immigration bill through committee to the floor with hearings. We had some hearings last year and produced a quite different bill from the one that is on the floor today. This one was cooked up by a hard-working, good group of Senators who thought they could just speak for everybody—self-appointed, I suppose.

Let me display this chart. When this bill was announced, it was said: This is democracy in action. This is what you learn in ninth grade civics. This is good business. But how about our old buddy Mr. Bill who wants to become a law. You have heard him say it. Old Bill has a bunch of holes in him. He has a lot of loopholes in him. I am going to talk about that in a few minutes.

Senator SPECTER, former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, ranking Republican on the committee, part of this effort that worked hard to try to create a bill they thought would be effective, said the other day that in retrospect, it would have been better had it gone to committee. Old Bill, ask him how a bill becomes law. He says: It is an idea somewhere. Then it gets written up. Then it goes to the floor. Then it goes to committee. The committee has hearings on it and calls witnesses and considers all the details and ramifications and lets the American people know what occurred.

The way this bill purports to become law is a group of Senators got together. I affectionately call them "masters of the universe." They got together and wrote up a historic piece of legislation that, if placed in normal bill language, would probably push 1,000 pages, probably the longest piece of legislation ever brought here. It was not sent to committee. It was filed at the desk, and the majority leader, Senator REID, called it up without any committee hearing. They had the old bill on the floor. They filed cloture this Monday on the old bill. Then Monday night, for the first time of record, they plopped down this historic and incredibly complex, long piece of legislation. It has a lot of problems with it. It should not become law. That is what this is all about.

Now we have gone a week, and we haven't had many amendments voted on. Thirteen is about all we have voted on by voice, unanimous consent, and roll call. Senator CORNYN, who has been engaged in this deeply and worked hard on it, former attorney general, Supreme Court Justice of Texas, offered some amendments this morning. They were objected to. I was told last night if I put up some amendments to the other side, they would evaluate them, and we would be able to call up one of those amendments this morning. In truth, both have been objected to. I am not able to offer a new amendment this morning. So the first week is gone. In fact, Senator HARRY REID, our esteemed Democratic leader, a person I like and enjoy working with, wanted to complete the bill this week and had it set up to try to complete the bill this week. There was so much push back and objection, he said: We will carry it over for another week.

I don't believe 1 more week is nearly enough for this legislation, frankly. We need to spend a lot more time on it. I can feel the train moving. There is a method in the way the majority is handling amendments; that is, you can

only bring up one amendment at a time. It has to be approved by the other side before you can call it up. If you can't call it up, it ceases to be an amendment that can be voted on postcloture, even if it is germane. So the result is, we could proceed with this process in a way that does not allow it to be improved in a significant way.

I am worried about my friend, Mr. Bill. I don't believe his teachers back there in the civics class would be pleased with how he has been bumped around. They would not be pleased that he had not gone through the normal process. I will point out some of the loopholes in poor, old Mr. Bill, as we go along today. Those loopholes will indicate this bill should not be passed in its present form.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank my friend, the Senator from Alabama, because I know he has a great deal more to say about the pending legislation this morning. I appreciate his allowing me a few minutes to discuss my view. I thank him for his courtesy.

I thank my friend from Colorado, Senator SALAZAR, for his leadership, for his involvement and his integrity. What a great honor it has been for me to work with him on this and a number of other issues over several years. I thank him.

Immigration reform is long overdue. I am proud to support this historic overhaul of our immigration system. This bill represents weeks, months and, in some cases, years of work by the proponents of this bill. The President has shown tremendous leadership on this issue and has dedicated countless hours to the process. While I may not be in agreement—and most of us are not in agreement—with each and every provision of the bill, it offers a good starting point for debate and a good framework. The proponents of this bill have come together to try to fix one of the most serious issues facing our country. We have put partisan politics aside in order to forge a consensual proposal to allow us to start a full floor debate on immigration reform. Others need to do the same.

Those of us from border States witness every day the impact illegal immigration is having on our friends and neighbors, our county and city services, our economy, and our environment. We deal with the degradation of our lands and the demands imposed on our hospitals and other public resources. However, I have learned over the last several years this is not only a border State problem; this is a national problem. It affects the dairy farmers in Vermont and the cattlemen in Colorado. It also affects the poultry processors in Georgia, the construction worker in Nevada, and the housewife in Maine. Our current system doesn't protect us from people who want to harm

us. It doesn't meet the needs of our economy, and it leaves too many people vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Throughout this debate, we will be reminded that immigration is a national security issue, and it is. It is also a matter of life and death. We have hundreds of people trying to cross our borders every day, an estimated 12 million people living in the shadows of our country. While we believe the majority are hard-working people contributing to our economy and society, we can also assume there are some people who want to do us harm hiding among the millions who have come here only in search of better lives for themselves and their families. We need new policies that will allow us to concentrate our resources on finding those who have come here for purposes more dangerous than finding a job.

Last year the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill, but it never even got to conference. This year we realized we had to take a different approach if we wanted to enact real reforms. New ideas and concepts were incorporated into the bill that helped to enhance the comprehensive nature of the bill and ensure the strongest tools were in place to enforce our laws and secure our border. First and foremost among our priorities was to ensure this bill included strong border security and enforcement provisions. We need to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security has the resources it needs to secure our borders to the greatest extent possible. These include manpower, vehicles, and detention facilities for those apprehended. But we also need to take a 21st century approach to this 21st century problem. We need to create virtual barriers as well through the use of unmanned aerial systems, ground sensors, cameras, vehicle barriers, advanced communications systems, and the most up-to-date security technologies available.

This legislation mandates that before we can move forward with a program to address the undocumented workers currently in the United States or future workers wishing to enter, we must meet certain enforcement and security benchmarks that will let everyone know we are enforcing our laws and that we are not going to repeat the 1986 amnesty. These triggers include the hiring of 20,000 Border Patrol agents, the construction of 300 miles of vehicle barriers and 370 miles of fencing, the establishment of 105 ground-based radar and camera towers along the southern border, and the deployment of 4 unmanned aerial vehicles and supporting systems. It also includes the end of catch and release, the ability to detain up to 31,500 aliens per day on an annual basis, the use of secure and effective identification tools to prevent unauthorized workers, and the receiving, processing, and adjudication of applications for the undocumented workers applying for legal status.

Every one of these items must be in place and fully funded before a single

temporary worker enters our country or a single undocumented immigrant receives a permanent legal status in the United States. I believe these requirements are a substantial improvement over previous measures. Not only will this legislation finally accomplish the extraordinary goal of securing our borders, it will also greatly improve interior enforcement and put employers on notice that the practice of hiring illegal workers simply will not be tolerated. Business as usual is no longer acceptable, and neither is a de facto amnesty. This legislation would put in place an effective and practical employment verification system to replace the outdated I-9 system that all employers use. In the 21st century, it is unacceptable that employers are still recording important employment eligibility information with a pen and pad. We need real-time answers that will tell employers if the person sitting in front of them is not only eligible to work here but the person they actually claim to be. Employers will no longer be put in a position of judging documents presented to them at face value.

The employment verification system in this bill will allow employers to electronically verify identity and work eligibility through both DHS and the Social Security Administration, while also protecting the personal information of all U.S. workers. If we cannot adequately enforce our immigration laws at the worksite, employers will be able to continue to employ undocumented workers. That is not a scenario we will allow under this legislation.

We need the ability to have additional legal workers in this country. There are certain jobs Americans are simply not willing to do. For example, today in California, fruit is rotting on the vine and lettuce is dying in the fields, because farmers can't find workers to harvest their crops. At the same time resorts in my own State of Arizona can't open to capacity, because there aren't enough workers to clean the rooms. Restaurants are locking their doors because there is no one to serve the food or clear the dishes. We are facing a situation whereby the U.S. population does not provide the workers that businesses desperately need. Yet the demand for their services and product continues.

At the same time we have seen, time and time again under the current law, that as long as jobs are available in this country for people who live in poverty and hopelessness in other countries, those people will risk their lives to cross our borders. Our reforms need to reflect that reality and help us separate economic immigrants from security risks. This legislation does just that.

The most effective border protection tool we have is establishing a legal channel for workers to enter the United States after they have passed background checks and have secured employment. We need to establish a temporary worker program that permits workers from other countries to

come here and find work and employment and to make sure those people are here on a legal basis.

Recently, David Brooks wrote in his column:

The United States is the Harvard of the world. Millions long to get in. Yet has this country set up an admissions system that encourages hard work, responsibility and competition? No. Under our current immigration system, most people get into the U.S. through criminality, nepotism or luck. The current system does almost nothing to encourage good behavior or maximize the nation's supply of human capital.

Let's look at how this bill would improve incentives almost every step of the way.

First, consider the 10 to 12 million illegal immigrants who are already here. They now have an incentive to think only in the short term. They have little reason to invest for the future because their presence here could be taken away.

This bill would encourage them to think in the long term. To stay, they would have to embark on a long, 13-year process. They'd have to obey the law, learn English and save money (to pay the stiff fines). Suddenly, these people would be lifted from an underclass environment—semi-separate from mainstream society—and shifted into a middle-class environment, enmeshed within the normal rules and laws that the rest of us live by. This would be the biggest values-shift since welfare reform.

Second, consider the millions living abroad who dream of coming to the United States. Currently, they have an incentive to find someone who can smuggle them in, and if they get caught, they have an incentive to try and try again.

The Senate bill reduces that incentive for lawlessness. If you think it is light on enforcement, read the thing. It would not only beef up enforcement on the border, but would also create an electronic worker registry. People who overstay their welcome could forfeit their chance of being regularized forever.

I would remind my colleagues the six people arrested who wanted to attack Fort Dix, NJ, and to kill Americans—three of them came across our southern border illegally; three of them came on valid visas and overstayed them.

Moreover, aspiring immigrants would learn, from an early age, what sort of person the United States is looking for. In a break from the current system, this bill awards visas on a merit-based points system that rewards education, and English proficiency, agricultural work experience, home ownership and other traits. Potential immigrants would understand that the United States is looking for people who can be self-sufficient from the start, and they'd mold themselves to demonstrate that ability.

In essence, we are rewarding people for working hard and showing potential. These are not all high-skilled workers, but they are the kind of workers and people we should want to become citizens of our country. By combining family ties with economic realities, we can build a stronger immigration system that will help to build a stronger, more competitive economy and Nation.

In addition to future immigrant and nonimmigrant workers, we have to address the fact that 12 million people are living in the United States illegally, most of them employed—all of them

contributing to our country. Our economy has come to depend on people whose existence in our country is fugitive, whose whereabouts and activities in many cases are unknown. I have listened to and understand the concerns of those who simply advocate sealing our borders and making life so terrible for people here that they will self-deport. But that is easier said than done.

I fundamentally believe our Judeo-Christian society would not tolerate this type of treatment of people within our own country, whether here legally or not. We need to come up with a humane, moral way to deal with those people who are here, most of whom are not going anywhere. No matter how much we improve border security, no matter the penalties we impose on their employers, no matter how seriously they are threatened with punishment, we will not find most of them, and we will not find most of their employers.

The opponents of our proposal to address undocumented workers in this country decry as amnesty our proposal to bring them out from their shadows and into compliance with our laws. No, it is not. Amnesty is, as I observe, for all practical purposes, what exists today. We can pretend otherwise, but that does not make it so. Amnesty is simply declaring people who entered the country illegally citizens of the United States and imposing no other requirements on them. That is not what we do in this legislation.

Under the provisions of this legislation, undocumented workers will have incentives to declare their existence and comply with our laws. They may apply for a worker visa. They would be subjected to background checks. They must pay substantial fines and fees, totaling approximately \$7,000, learn English, enroll in civic education, remain employed and, if they choose to get a green card, go to the end of the line behind those who waited legally outside of the country to come in.

I believe most undocumented workers will accept these requirements in order to escape the fear, uncertainty, and vulnerability to exploitation they currently endure. While those who have come here to do us harm will not come out of hiding to accept those conditions, we will at least be spared the Herculean task of finding and sorting through millions of people who came here simply to earn a living.

We are aware of the burdens illegal immigrants impose on our cities and counties and States. Those burdens which are a Federal responsibility must be addressed. We need also to face honestly the moral consequences of our currently failed immigration system.

I am hopeful at the end of this debate we can show the American people that we addressed a serious and urgent problem with sound judgment, honesty, common sense, and compassion. I hope we can show that we reached across the aisle to try to solve a serious problem in a serious way.

It seems almost trite at this point to once again state that our Nation's immigration system is broken and in bad need of repair. But without comprehensive immigration reform, it is a fact that our Nation's security will remain vulnerable. We must act immediately or face the consequences of another summer of people dying in our deserts, businesses shutting their doors because they do not have the manpower to stay open, and criminals hiding in the shadows of our society mixed in with hard-working people who are the backbone of our economy.

The Senate must have the courage and will to solve this crisis facing our Nation. The American people are demanding action. I say the time is overdue, and we are failing the citizens of the United States if we do not pass this important piece of legislation and ultimately achieve its enactment and implementation. If we do fail, what then?

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues, and I thank my friend from Colorado.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, for his comments and for his support of this legislation. I also want to say that Senator MCCAIN has always spoken to the highest moral values of this Nation. His history in terms of his contributions to this country are unequaled. His involvement in trying to deal with this issue, including addressing it from a moral perspective, is something I will always admire.

I remember well, I say to Senator MCCAIN, when I went to your office, probably 2 years ago, as a freshman Senator. When I was sitting in your office, you pulled out a copy of the Arizona Republic, and I think the headline was: "300 People Died in the Desert." The Senator spoke about the moral basis for us to move forward with comprehensive immigration reform.

The Senator certainly has been a leader in that effort. I thank him for that. I thank him for his integrity, and I thank him for all his contributions to this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I see my friend from Alabama is in the Chamber.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the failed immigration policies we have now are in need of reform, in need of comprehensive reform. I said that last year. Some of my colleagues said borders first; and I had sympathy with that and it actually would probably have been a healthy process if we started a year or two ago and established border security and gained the respect and confidence of the American people. We could then have been bringing forward a comprehensive immigration bill with more credibility than we have today.

There is a lot of debate going on, and a lot of posturing going on. You see

things, such as my good friend, the Secretary of Homeland Security, Mike Chertoff who is doing a great job—he frames the issue this way: It is a choice between Republican conservatives who want to block the bill by insisting on mass deportations or insisting on deportations that are just not going to happen.

Well, I am not aware of anybody on our side of the aisle calling for mass deportations. That is not so. That is a false setup. That is a triangulation, if you will, good friend, Mr. Chertoff, former U.S. attorney. We served together in the Department of Justice. He is one of the best members of the Cabinet. I do not appreciate it, Mike. You tell me who on this side said we want to have a mass deportation—zero. That is not the question.

The question is whether we will have a decent bill that will actually work. I know you have made recommendations that are critical, Mr. Chertoff, to the passage of the bill that were not included in it. In fact, I have to give him credit. He did criticize the liberal immigration rights advocates by suggesting they will prolong the anguish by holding off the bill also. But I do not think that is the right issue here.

All of us want a compassionate, legitimate piece of legislation that can work and will serve our long-term interests and will be consistent with the principles that are set forth by the people who worked on the legislation. But I am not given confidence. I will repeat again: I am not feeling confident at all there will be a legitimate, full, vigorous debate and a lot of amendments that go to some of the weaknesses in the legislation. I am afraid they are not going to be considered.

I say that because I see the tactics moving along. We have gone a week with only three, four votes. That is not enough time on a bill of this size and complexity. I think we had 40 or 50 votes on the bankruptcy bill. It was nothing more than an updating of bankruptcy law. It went on for weeks and months. It came through the Senate three or four times actually before it finally became law.

There were other bills that had far more extensive debate and discussion than this one. But none of those bills come close to having the impact on America or come close to having the attention of the American people to the degree this issue does.

The reason the American people are angry and upset is simple. They are not angry, they are not upset with immigrants. That is not what I read people to be saying. What I think they are angry and upset with is Congress and the President for absolutely refusing to listen to their natural and proper concerns about immigration. What I am hearing is they do not want to be taken to the cleaners once again.

They do not want to be victims of a bait and switch in which we promise we are going to create a system that will work for lawful immigration, that will

allow us to have an immigration policy that serves the national interest, that allows millions of people to come to our country in immigration status—but it would be a number we can have jobs for, without pulling down the wages of hard-working American workers. It would bring in numbers sufficient to make sure we do not cause problems in schools and other areas that we cannot quite handle.

The number ought to be correct, and that they ought to be, insofar as possible, persons who are going to flourish in our economy, people who have the skills, language, and education levels that indicate they will likely be very successful here, like Canada does. That is what they do. We have a touch of that in this bill—far better than last year, I have to say—but I have been so disappointed to read the fine print and to see that movement to follow the philosophy that Canada does has not nearly been strong enough. It is discouraging to see it has not been.

So the individuals who thought they would meet and reach an agreement and plop it on the floor of the Senate—for which all the rest of us folks would just dutifully comply with and ratify and say: Thank you, my elite colleagues. We are glad you have worked out this immigration problem. Thank you so much. We know something had to be done—and it does have to be done—we are just overjoyed you got Senator KENNEDY and Senator KYL and everybody has agreed, and we are going to plop this bill down, and you guys will just ratify it. You can have a lot of little amendments if you want to, but, remember, if anything touches the core principles we have decided on, why, that would be something we just couldn't accept, and every one of us is going to stick together, and we are going to vote against it, even if we might agree with your amendment. We had to compromise that to get this agreement. Yes, Jeff, we like that amendment. I know you like that amendment. I really think you are right on that amendment, but I cannot vote with you because I have agreed with this group over here in this secret session which the public was not involved in. We made a commitment to one another, and we are going to stick together and vote you down.

Now, this is not the way old Bill was taught law was supposed to occur in America. It is unbelievable that you would have a piece of legislation of this historic nature not even go to committee and that this group just met. How quick did we have it? Oh, well, we were going to have the bill last Thursday so people could read it, and then it was going to be Friday. We promise we will have the bill Friday. Then it turned out to be Saturday morning, at 2 a.m., they emailed it and tried to say they put it out Friday. It was Saturday, at best, when the bill was out. They claim it is 300 and some pages. I believe this is it. They say it is 300 pages or whatever the number of pages

it is in this stack of bills, but they didn't print it in the normal language. I have never seen a piece of legislation of any size go through here and not be in bill language. This is fine print. If you put this bill in bill language, it would probably be 1,000 pages. A good immigration bill needs to be 1,000 pages. There are thousands of issues involved that need to be clarified, hundreds and hundreds of complex situations that, if not properly addressed, will never work if we don't do it right.

That is all I would say to my colleagues and friends. I love you. I appreciate all your efforts to try to solve the American people's problems. I know you didn't want to bother with them while you met and had your discussions, except I guess the Chamber of Commerce and this special interest group and that special interest group and maybe some pollsters telling this and that; I don't know how that came out. But I don't appreciate the fact that we are not being able to have a full debate on it, and we are not going to be able to have very many amendments. We could probably, without—well, you say: You are trying to file amendments to delay. You want to slow down the process. Well, as Senator SPECTER said, in retrospect, we would have done better had the bill gone through committee, the Judiciary Committee. At least they did last year. It was rammed through the committee last year because I saw it when I was on the committee. This is what happened last year: They waited until the last minute. Senator Frist, the majority leader, says we are going to bring an immigration bill up next Monday. On the Judiciary Committee, we are working hard. We go to the Judiciary Committee, and Senator SPECTER has a bill that had some possibilities. It had problems, but it had some attractiveness to it. It wasn't long before Senator KENNEDY dropped his bill and substituted and the Specter bill was gone. We had an entirely new bill. Then they dropped an AgJOBS thing on top of that. Then they dropped the DREAM Act, which gives instate tuition to illegal aliens and things of that nature that all got dropped on, passed, pop, pop, pop.

Senator Frist says: Well, if you don't have the bill on the floor by Monday night, I am going to go with an enforcement only bill. So we rush and rush around there and they put the bill down on Monday night and here we go. Senator REID says we don't want any amendments. Senator CORNYN and Senator KYL had some amendments. They got their backs up and began to push back and people said: What are we going to do with a bill without any amendments? So finally, Senator Frist pulled the bill. He said: We are not going to bring it back up until the Democratic leaders agree we are going to have some amendments. It came back up for a couple of weeks of debate and cleared this body, knowing the House of Representatives had no intention whatsoever of ever considering it.

It was sort of a gesture because it was not an effective piece of legislation.

This year's bill is better than last year's, although I have been disappointed to see that it has backed up on some issues of significance. I still would say the framework of this year's bill is a good bit better than last year's. Last year's bill should never, ever have become law. It was fatally flawed.

So what were the principles that the promoters of this legislation said should be occurring here? They said we need a lawful system, that we wouldn't have amnesty and that there would be a trigger, which was rejected last year, a trigger and a number of other things they cited as key component principles of a good immigration bill. All right. I agree with that. Many of those principles were sound. But as we read the fine print, our concern is—my fine staff, they have worked hard, including weekends. They get the bill at 2 a.m. Saturday morning. They work Saturday nights and Sunday nights and here we are on the floor of the Senate. The thing does not even get introduced until Monday night, and nobody has had a chance to read it until then. So it is a big problem.

My fundamental concern then is that the bill does not live up to the stated principles that it contains. So what we need in reform are a number of things. We need to recognize—unless anyone misinterprets this—we need to recognize we are indeed a Nation of immigrants. We are. Some people don't believe that, but I don't believe there is a Member of Congress who doesn't understand that. We want and will have a continuing flow of new people into our country, and it enriches us and has proven to be one of our strengths as a Nation. I think we need to restate that again and again and that immigration will continue in the future and that we are going to treat compassionately, even generously, people who have broken our laws and come into our country illegally. But we must do it in a way that minimizes the damage that will be done to our legal system and our ability to enforce the law in the future.

My colleagues have been involved in law enforcement and you get busy and you start giving people immunity for this and that crime repeatedly and people begin to believe you are never going to enforce it. At some point in the future, you get to the point where you would not be able to enforce it. On the floor, I think maybe yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa, who is such a great Senator, such a direct speaker, asked this question. He said he was here in 1986 when they promised no amnesty. He is very concerned because it didn't work and he felt responsibility for that. He was not going to be a part of new immigration legislation that doesn't work such as the 1986 legislation. He said: In 1986, they said we are not ever going to have amnesty again, and he asked this question: Have

you heard any of the promoters of this legislation say we will not have amnesty again? He said: You are not going to hear them say that. That is one thing you would not hear because after—because if we give amnesty again, what good is it to even say we are not going to do it? Because what principle, what basis on which to stand will we have 10, 12, 15 years from now when several million other people are in our country legally and someone says they are here illegally, why don't we enforce the law and ask them to go home. Oh, well, you gave amnesty before. You gave amnesty in 2007, you gave amnesty in 1986. How can you enforce the law now?

So to not understand as a matter of law and principle that once again, taking the easy amnesty step will make it almost impossible in the future for us ever to enforce the law is a mistake.

I read the debate in 1986—a lot of it. It went just like that. People said: One-time amnesty. We have to do this. Own-time amnesty. The others said: Well, we are not sure about this. We think if you have an amnesty and you wipe out the laws that we had here and the violations that have occurred, you are liable to increase the threat in the future that more people will break into our country illegally on the expectations that they, too, after a period of time, will be allowed to stay legally. If you read that debate, you will see whose predictions were correct. I have to say that. I have to say that.

So I think the Z visa program that allows people who come here illegally to stay here illegally, to come out of the shadows with some sort of status, but not, I would suggest, as it is now written giving them a guaranteed path to receiving every single benefit that accrues to people who come legally, I don't think we should do that. That is my principle. If you didn't follow the rules, somehow, it ought to be clear that you will never get every single benefit of citizenship and participation in America than if you waited in line. If you give up on that principle, we have a problem. So I think if we had the courage and the firmness and the strength in this Senate and would listen to the American people, we would say the principles of 1986 are going to be affirmed. OK. We will figure out a way you can stay, your children can be citizens, you can have all the protections of the laws of our country but not every benefit of citizenship, and we will never, ever again do that. If we give away that position, I think we have a problem.

So what I would like to talk about is some of the loopholes in this bill. I talked about the loopholes last year in the bill and there were quite a number of them. This is not an exhaustive list. You heard Senator ALLARD earlier this morning make comments about the weaknesses in the legislation, and you heard Senator CORNYN point out some weaknesses in the legislation. I have identified 15. We certainly would not be

able to talk about all those this morning that I wish to talk about, but there are many more. It is troubling that we might not be able to have an opportunity to fully amend the bill to fix these loopholes.

Our old buddy, Bill, the ideal way that laws should be written in America, well, he has been forgotten in this process. I will tell you what could happen in the House of Representatives. I don't think they are having any serious hearings over there. This bill could hit the House of Representatives if it came out of the Senate—and it may well come out of this body—it could hit the House of Representatives. They could call it up. They don't have unlimited debate. They don't have a very strong ability to cut off debate. They could vote the bill out. It could go to conference. The conferees will be chosen and controlled by Senator REID, the Democratic leader, and the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, and they will appoint the people they want to fix any differences in the bill, and they can make virtually any changes they want to. Then the bill is on the floor, and it is either up or down, and it might pass. As one Member of the House said about whether President Bush would sign it, he said President Bush would sign a pork chop if it had immigration reform on it. We have to be careful what we do and what is in this bill.

It can affect what is actually going to become law. There is no passing this off to the House of Representatives, like last year, as if that was going to fix many of the problems that were in the legislation. The House is liable to make it worse. Well, you have heard one of the principles in the bill.

I am glad to hear Senator MCCAIN say there was a trigger in the legislation. He resisted a trigger last year. We had quite a debate on it. Those opposing it last year said you cannot have a trigger because all of us who met and wrote the bill don't want a trigger; you will upset our compromise. I asked then—and I ask today—who was in this compromise? Did you have public hearings? Were people allowed to do what you were discussing? Did La Raza get to put in their opinion? Did the U.S. Chamber of Commerce get to put in their opinion? Who all got to put in their opinion? They didn't ask my opinion—well, that is not totally so; I did talk to a couple of them, whom I expressed some opinions to. Fundamentally, that is just not an open process. Sometimes you can do something like that as a tough nut to be cracked, and people have to make a decision. But this is too big, too broad, too much policy. The American people are too concerned about it, and it is too important to be settled that way.

Let me tell you what the trigger was about. I offered in the Judiciary Committee last year—because it dawned on me that in Judiciary Committee, I offered an amendment to say: Let's add border patrol, and they accepted it. I

offered an amendment that showed how we don't have enough bed spaces to end catch and release, saying you had to have more. They accepted that. I offered amendment after amendment, and they accepted them. I thought, why is this? So I offered amendments to change the policy to make the law actually enforceable, and they got voted down.

Why would that be so easy? Because the brain trust that was proposing that bill last year knew the history of 1986; they knew how Congress worked, and they knew they never had any intention of funding all the Border Patrol agents and the fencing and the prison beds. We could pass an authorization bill to build prisons, and they are never going to get built, I am telling you. I will show you examples. It means nothing.

So I offered a trigger. It finally dawned on me what this was about, how the game was going to be played out. I offered an amendment that said: You don't get any of this amnesty until the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies that he has operational control over our lawless border. They voted that down.

So Senator ISAKSON, from Georgia, picked that up and wrote it in even more detail when the bill came to the floor and offered the amendment. We had quite a debate over this because it was important—the trigger was important. The cabal who put all of it together said: We cannot do that because it would upset our delicate compromise in the groups that participated in writing this bill—not the American people—and they would oppose it. They voted it down. It was a fairly close vote, but they voted down the trigger because they really didn't want that trigger because they never intended to do the things that were in the bill. The trigger would have said: You have to build a fence, you have to build the prison beds, and you have to hire the people. If you don't do those things—and actually do them—the other stuff doesn't become law, the amnesty. That was the debate last year.

This year, they say: We got the message, we are going to have a trigger. Well, good. I was happy about that. That sounded good. This is one of our principles. This time, we are not going to mislead the American people. We are really going to do what we promised and have a trigger, and you can relax, SESSIONS, because we are not going to fool you this time. It is not going to be like 1986.

But the problem is that the trigger doesn't get us there. I just have to tell you that. The trigger only applies to the guestworker program and taking illegal aliens off the probationary Z visa, and all other programs in the bill will begin immediately. So if the trigger is never met—if the trigger that is supposed to be met is never met, these requirements we put in there to ensure that we were going to follow through with enforcement, if they are never

met, the probationary status in the amnesty group never expires.

After the bill passes, Homeland Security has 180 days to begin accepting Z visa applications. They would accept them for 1 year and can extend the application filing for another year. When the trigger is met, if it ever is, Homeland Security will start approving the applications they have been processing and adjudicating. What happens if the trigger is never met? Will the probationary amnesty end or expire? Those are pretty good questions. If the trigger is never met, I can answer it for you: The Z visa probationary status never ends in the bill.

It is explained on page 291, line 17:

Probationary authorization document does not expire until "6 months after the date on which the Secretary begins to approve applications for Z visas."

So if the trigger is never met, if the Department of Homeland Security never starts approving the applications and the 6-month clock never starts ticking, therefore, the probationary authorization document never expires.

My staff asked about this in one of the briefings by the group promoting the bill. The staffers asked: Does the Z visa probationary card ever expire? The answer was: Well, because the triggers are going to get met sometime, in fact, it is not going to expire.

So, in addition, we need to remember that there is no guarantee that the additional enforcement items—I talked about that earlier—in title I and title II of this legislation that purport to be effective in enforcing the law—there are dozens of things there that are not listed in the trigger. The question is, Will they ever be funded?

You should be aware, sophisticated Americans and Members of the Senate, that there is no obligation or requirement whatsoever that these things ever get funded in the future. The bill itself acknowledges that in many different places.

So with regard to some of the things in the bill that are supposed to make enforcement better and make the system work better, they use this phrase—they say, "subject to the availability of appropriations."

That phrase is used 18 times in the bill. What does that mean? It means we are going to increase our prison beds, increase border patrol, and do all these things which are in our law, and we are going to enforce the law subject to the availability of appropriations. Well, somebody probably wants a bridge in their home State or a highway or a university grant in their home district—more money for this or that, good programs or bad programs, but that is how these things get lost out in the competition for spending. They don't get done. They acknowledge that.

The phrase "authorized to be appropriated" is used 20 times. So they are saying we are authorizing to be appropriated money to do this, that, and the other. They are going to make this bill good. So our masters of the universe

come out and say: Don't worry, American people, I know you think we are not going to enforce the law, but we have new Border Patrol officers and prison spaces and fencing, and they add the phrase. But all it really says in the legislation is that it is authorized to be appropriated. There is no way they can guarantee that Congress next year is going to appropriate the money for what they put in the bill.

All of that was key to the trigger effect. I have to tell you that, in my view, the trigger is not nearly strong enough. It has been undermined, and virtually everything in the trigger has already been completed or is soon to be completed. It doesn't have some of the new things that have been promised here in the trigger.

Loophole No. 2. This is very important. The enforcement trigger does not require that the U.S. visa exit portion of US-VISIT—the biometric border check system that records that you have come into the country—will be implemented. It was required by Congress in 1996. Over 10 years ago, we required that the US-VISIT exit system be in place; that is, if you have a visa to the United States for 6 months or 30 days or a year, you come in and present your card, it goes into the computer system, like at the bank or like your timeclock where you work, it clocks you in, and then it clocks you out. If you don't exit when you are supposed to, red flags can go up that you didn't exit when you were supposed to. You are an "overstay." It is an absolutely critical step in creating a lawful immigration system that will work. It was required to be completed in 2005. Here we are in 2007, and it is not completed. Did we promise to complete it as part of the trigger? No, no, no. There would be no way to ascertain whether people exit when they are supposed to.

Under the bill, it says a certain number of people come seasonably, or certain people for 2 years, and sometimes family members can come for 30 days, and sometimes family members can come for 2 years—those kinds of things. Who is going to find out if they didn't go home when they were supposed to? Over a third of the people in our country illegally came legally but overstayed their visa, and many have no intention of returning to their home country whatsoever. We don't even know they didn't return because we have no way to clock out when they left. We have no idea who left when they were supposed to leave.

This is why I say the legislation before us was designed to fail. I am not sure the Members all designed it to fail, but the effort, when it came down to it, when confronted with things which would actually work and which are critical to the success of an effective border system, they weren't in there, and that sends you a signal on what is really there.

In 1996, we required, as I said, this US-VISIT system to have an exit component by 2005, and it is still not complete. Do you think that in 1996, Members of the Congress and Members of the Senate went out and told their constituents that we are working on immigration; we passed a bill that will have an exit system in 10 years or 9 years, and that will help us enforce the law, and I am so proud we passed that? What good is it to pass it if it never happens? It hasn't happened yet, and it is not required through the trigger, which is the only thing that can require it to work.

According to the Pew Hispanic Center's 2006 report entitled "Modes of Entry for Unauthorized Migrant Population":

4 to 5.5 million of the current illegal alien population "entered legally" and are non-immigrant visa overstayers.

Despite what we know about the overstay rates, the US-VISIT exit system is not made part of the trigger. That is a very big loophole.

I don't think we are serious if we don't have an exit system. One might say it is hard to do. We have had 10 years. I will say one thing, if President Bush wanted the exit system to be in place, he would have it in place. If Congress wanted it in place, we would have it in place.

A separate section of the bill does require the Department of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a schedule for developing an exit component. That is not good enough.

Loophole No. 3, one of these little spots in poor old Bill who got shot up because he didn't go to committee like he was supposed to learn in civics class. He is supposed to go to committee. Maybe some loopholes would have been closed if we had an opportunity to talk about it publicly before the whole world.

Loophole No. 3: The bill does not require the Department of Homeland Security to have enough bed space to actually end catch and release at the border and in the interior. It only requires Homeland Security to maintain its current level of bed space and establishes a "catch, pay, and release" program that benefits illegal aliens from countries other than Mexico who are caught at the border and who can post a \$5,000 bond.

A \$5,000 bond is not hard to post if you know how the system works and you are prepared. It can be done any number of ways. But let's say an individual has a cousin or uncle or someone in the United States and they come into the country and are apprehended, and they came from Europe or Brazil or someplace other than Mexico. All you have to do is post a bond and then you are released pending some hearing on deportation.

We have had this problem for a number of years. Secretary Chertoff has made some progress in ending it, and I give him credit for that. There was an article in a newspaper that showed

that people other than Mexicans—you see, it is not easy to deport them. It is easy to take a person back to Mexico, but how do you take a person back to Chile, Brazil, Indonesia, or Belarus? It takes some effort to do this. So they were releasing everyone on bail because they didn't have any bed space, and asking them to show up at some given time so they could deport them. If a person is willing to break into the country in violation of the laws, how many of those people are going to show up after they have been apprehended to be flown out of the country? No, not zero; 95 percent don't show up. That is what the number is. In fact, some of the rules smugglers told their people to follow is if you see an immigration officer, turn yourself in because they will take you further inland, they will process you, and let you out on bail, and you never have to come back, which is exactly what 95 percent are doing. It is a mockery of the law and, in some areas, we have made progress, but that is not a part of the trigger.

What about the bed space? You have to have a certain amount of bed space or you can't hold people. Over the past 2 years, the Senate appropriated money for 9,000 new beds, bringing us to a total of 27,500 beds. This is the current funding level, 27,500 beds. We have already funded that amount. Nothing new was added to the requirements of the trigger until the Gregg amendment was adopted earlier this week. Now the trigger requires Homeland Security to reach a detention bed space of 31,500 beds, 4,000 more.

The 27,500 beds, however, are far less than the 43,000 detention beds required under current law to be in place and constructed by the end of this year.

OK, cynics out there, does that provide fuel to your fire? How about that? Does that breach cynicism? We require in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 that this country have 43,000 beds by the end of this year, but when this bill came up, they only had in the trigger portion, the thing that would guarantee we reach that level, 27,500 beds. Senator GREGG raised the number to 31,500, but in 2004, when Senators went out and bragged that they raised our number to 43,000 detention beds, that was supposed to be met, and we have no intention of meeting it, I submit. Because it is in bill language doesn't mean it will ever happen.

This month, a Federal lawyer who used to be with the Bureau of Prisons, Joseph Summerill, wrote an op-ed piece—he used to be with the Bureau of Prisons, so he knows this issue. As a lawyer, he was a counsel for the Bureau of Prisons, and he now practices with the firm of Greenberg Traurig.

He says the following:

... the demand for deportation and removal operation detention space has grown much faster than available bed space has. . . .

He goes on:

Despite the fact that high-risk/high-priority immigrants include immigrants who

are associated with criminal investigations, have committed fraud, or are likely to abscond, these immigrants are often released because of the lack of detention bed space. . . .

The lack of detention bed space has resulted in creating a de facto amnesty program for illegal immigrants who are subject to removal, particularly those immigrants from countries "other than Mexico."

From 2002 to 2004, he explains:

DRO—

That is the detention and removal operation

DRO personnel levels grew by only 3 percent and the funding of bed space decreased by 6 percent. According to the inspector general, declining funds, the shortage of DRO personnel, and decreased bed space led to a 38 percent increase of illegal immigrants released by the DRO.

We are supposed to be fixing this catch-and-release program. I thought we were. Here this former lawyer with the Bureau of Prisons said we had a 38-percent increase in illegal immigrants being released. He concludes:

DRO has faced annual mandates by Congress, the President, and the American people to increase the number of illegal immigrants who are detained. Unfortunately, Federal funding has not kept pace with these mandates. . . .

So it is clear we need a lot more beds, and 31,500 beds, as we approved in an amendment the other day, is better than 27,500, but it is not enough.

So why are the American people cynical? We passed a law in 2004 requiring 43,000 beds by the end of this year. We are at 27,500. It is not likely to ever happen, and that is why they did not put it in the trigger because if they did, those bed spaces would have to be completed.

Mr. President, I see my distinguished colleague Senator BOND from Missouri in the Chamber. He is a most capable Senator. I appreciate his leadership. I have a number of loopholes I could talk about and will talk about in the days to come.

I am raising these issues to say I can't vote for a bill that is likely to clear the House of Representatives and be signed by the President with loophole after loophole after loophole. I cannot go to my constituents and say I am pleased we have now passed legislation that will actually work to create a lawful system, that will treat compassionately the people who are here, will create a flow in the future based on merit and competition, and will do a lot of other things we want done, the sponsors of this bill are saying they want done, and asking us to vote for this bill because they say it will accomplish that.

My disagreement is not with their principles and their stated goals, but my disagreement is the language in the legislation is dramatically ineffective to accomplish that.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for allowing me to speak

briefly. I have proposed an amendment which I believe is very important to this bill to cut the automatic path to citizenship. It is filed at the desk, and I will call it up later.

Citizenship is the most sacred gift Americans can provide. It should not serve as a reward to those who broke the law to enter or remain in this country. The path to citizenship is at the heart of the amnesty criticism of this bill. Cutting this path cuts out the most severe complaint about this bill.

I supported the Vitter amendment yesterday to strike the entire program proposed to deal with 12 million illegal aliens in the country. Unfortunately, that amendment was rejected. So today I propose a much more targeted, focused amendment to strike the controversial aspect of the proposal to give the award of citizenship to those 12 million illegal aliens.

Whatever we end up doing with those 12 million illegal aliens, it does not require the further step of giving them a path to citizenship ahead of others. Those 12 million illegal aliens came to this country to work without the expectation of becoming citizens. More illegal aliens will come to this country on a temporary basis to work without expectation of citizenship. There is no need to grant these people the gift of citizenship.

Specifically, my amendment will strike the contents of section 602 on earned adjustment of Z status aliens, replacing it with a prohibition on issuing an immigrant visa to Z non-immigrants which is currently in the bill and a prohibition of adjusting a Z nonimmigrant to legalize permanent resident or so-called green card holder.

In this way, the path to citizenship is cut off. I urge the Senate to call up and adopt this amendment. I believe it will enable other goals in the bill to be accomplished without giving the amnesty path to citizenship.

I yield the floor and I thank my colleagues.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to make one correction. I think I said we had four or five votes, or three or four votes, or something of that nature. My staff tells me we have had seven votes this week. I think that is better than four, but that would indicate that in 2 weeks we will have had about 14 votes. That is not enough, in my view, to fix the problems in this legislation.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Alabama for his heartfelt statements concerning this very important issue that faces our country today.

I wish to do two things here. First, I wish to remind the Senate how far along this road we have come. This debate on immigration reform is not one that started on this Monday. It is indeed a debate the Senate started over a

year and a half ago, and it started in the Judiciary Committee. It then went through nearly a month of debate, with many amendments and changes, and ultimately a bill that was passed out of the Senate, this comprehensive immigration reform, by a vote, as I recall, of 64 Senators voting to move that bill forward.

Now, that was a year ago. We are now a year ahead, and what has happened during this past year is that there have been continuing conversations about how we might be able to create an immigration reform system that works for our country. After many hundreds, perhaps thousands, of hours of meetings, which included the White House and included the leading members of many of the committees in the Senate, there was a bill that was crafted. It may be an imperfect bill, but part of what is happening today is that, as amendments have been crafted and introduced, there is an effort to make the legislation better.

At the end of the day, I wish to give thanks to all those Members of the Senate and members of the President's Cabinet, and the President himself, for what they have done in moving this immigration debate forward.

I will also add that our majority leader, Senator REID, long ago gave warning to the Members of the Senate that we were going to move forward to immigration. This was not a surprise to the Members of the Senate. Months ago, Senator REID said we have to deal with this most fundamental national security problem of our time, and what I will do is I will reserve time at the end of May so we can deal with immigration reform.

Well, he did that, and he kept everybody's feet to the fire. At the beginning of this week, Senator REID made the decision he would allow another week of debate. So that, at the end of the day, we will have had 3 weeks to study and debate the legislation that was put together.

I will remind my colleagues there has been significant progress made. There have been 23 amendments that have been offered. Of those, 13 have already been disposed of. Seven of them were disposed of this week with rollcall votes, six disposed of with voice votes. As of yesterday, there were 10 pending amendments. Today, there have been four more amendments that have been offered, and the beginning debate on those amendments has taken place. So the majority leader's decision to add 1 more week to continue the deliberation on this bill is something which is needed and something which we all appreciate. Hopefully, what it will lead to is the passage of a comprehensive immigration reform bill that is good for the American people.

I wish to take a few minutes to sum up, from my point of view, why this legislation is so important. We now know we have a system in America for immigration which is broken. It is a system of lawlessness and it is a sys-

tem that victimizes a lot of people, from the people who are the workers to the employers of this country. We also know it is a system that has been broken for a very long time. Our laws have not been enforced on immigration. The United States has chosen, instead of enforcing the law, to look the other way. Indeed, over the last 5 or 6 years, as I understand it, there have been less than four enforcement actions taken against employers across the country, on average.

When we have that kind of chaos and lawlessness and the kind of broken borders we have, what does it do to the United States? The first thing it does is it compromises our national security. How can we have national security in a post-9/11 world when we don't know who is coming into our country? We have 400,000 or 600,000 people coming here illegally every year. How can we say to the American people that the national security interest of the United States is being protected? How can we do that? We cannot do that. How can we, as Senators and as people who are leading our Government, say to the people of our country that in this democracy we are upholding the rule of law, when we look the other way instead of enforcing the laws of the country? In my view, we need to move forward and we need to develop comprehensive immigration reform.

As I have looked at this legislation and the different aspects of the legislation that have been crafted together, it seems to me we need to look at the comprehensive approach as though we were looking at a tripod. We have to ask ourselves this question: What is the aim of this legislation?

The first aim, in my view—one leg of the tripod—is to fix our borders. We have broken borders. We have broken borders today. So we have proposed in our legislation an additional number of Border Patrol agents to help us secure the border. We started out in this legislation with 18,000 additional Border Patrol officers. Through an amendment by Senator GREGG, that number is now up to 20,000 Border Patrol agents. That is significant additional manpower that is going to go to the border.

We have approved at least 370 miles of fencing. So we will have fencing that will go into the strategic places along the border. We also have included in the legislation 200 miles of vehicle barriers. We have included 70 ground-based radar and camera towers. We have included four unmanned aerial vehicles. We have included new checkpoints and points of entry.

So one of our aims is to secure the border, and the legislation we have put forward, with the assistance and leadership of Secretary Chertoff, will ensure we have a protected border.

We also need to then ask ourselves: What are our other aims? It doesn't do much good to secure our borders but within our country we simply continue to ignore the law. So we need to enforce the law within the country. That

ought to be our second aim. That is the second leg of this tripod: how we enforce our laws within our country. So we must secure America's interior.

How are we going to do that? Well, our legislation does that in a number of ways. First, we will increase the detention capacity of our immigration enforcement system to be able to hold those who are here unlawfully at the number of 27,500 a day—27,500 beds in detention facilities for those who are caught here unlawfully.

Secondly, we will go ahead and hire an additional 1,000 new ICE investigators to help us deal with the investigations of the laws that are broken under our immigration system. We will hire 2,500 new Customs and Border Protection workers. We will reimburse State and local communities, State and local communities that today are having to deal with the problems relating to criminal aliens. We will create a new employer verification system so that employers know the person they are hiring is legal and authorized to work in the United States, and we will do it in a way that does not put an unnecessary burden on American employers. We will hire an additional 1,000 new worksite compliance personnel. We will increase the penalties for gang activity, for fraud, and for human smuggling. We will streamline the background check process, we will require new fraudproof immigration documents with biometric identifiers, and we will encourage partnerships between Federal and State and local law enforcement to make sure our laws are, in fact, being enforced.

So the second aim—to secure America's interior—is something we have covered amply in this legislation.

The third aim—the third leg of this tripod—is to secure America's economic future. I wish to speak briefly about three aspects of how we will secure America's economic future.

First, the AgJOBS Act. The AgJOBS legislation allows us to maintain our current agricultural workforce. It will reform the existing agriculture program and make it effective. That legislation has been crafted to a point where I think there are 567 organizations that have endorsed it, from the Colorado Farm Bureau, to the Farmers Union, to every single agricultural organization in America.

The leaders on AgJOBS in the Senate, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator CRAIG, have been eloquent in making their statements about the need for the agricultural community, farmers and ranchers, to be able to have a stable workforce. We need to stop the rotting of the vegetables and the fruits in California, in Colorado, and across this country. The only way we are going to be able to do that is if we have a stable workforce for agriculture.

We also include in this legislation, as part of securing America's future, a new temporary worker program. Yes, it is a program that is controversial. It is very controversial on the Democratic

side, and there are some Members on the Republican side as well who do not like that particular piece of legislation. I will say this, however. When we crafted the legislation, we included the kinds of worker protections to make sure the exploitation of past programs will not occur.

In the past, there were programs, such as the Braserio program, from years ago, in which there was massive exploitation of workers who were being brought here for a short period of time. What we have done in this legislation is to make sure that massive exploitation will not occur because the worker protections have been included in this legislation.

Finally, we will secure America's economic future by providing a realistic solution to the 12 million or so American people who are working in America, who have come here illegally, and who are in an undocumented status. That, at the end of the day, in many ways, has been the most contentious item we have debated in immigration reform. What do we do with the 12 million people here who are working in our factories, who are making our beds, who are fixing our food in our restaurants, and who do all the work here in America to make sure everybody's daily needs are taken care of? They interface with us in our daily lives.

Some people have said, as all of us have heard, I am sure, every Senator here, we ought to round them up and deport them all; we ought to have a mass deportation of the 12 million people here in America today.

A mass deportation. Well, there is a fiscal cost associated with that. Some people have made an estimate that it would cost multiple billions of dollars to be able to round up all these people and to deport them.

Can we actually do it? Can we actually deport 12 million people? If we were to deport 12 million people, in my view, No. 1, we would have a massive dislocation in the American economy; No. 2, it would be an un-American thing for us to do as a people because it would be inhumane. These 12 million people have brought their hopes and dreams to America, and they have contributed significantly to the workforce. It is our broken system which has allowed the illegality that has taken place to occur over a long period of time. So what we have crafted is a way forward that provides a realistic solution to how we deal with these people.

Now, on the other side, and in some places of our country, what we hear is a loud cry of amnesty. Well, I join President Bush and my colleagues, Senator John Kyl and Senator KENNEDY, in saying this is not amnesty. What we are doing is saying, first of all, they will have to pay a penalty. When someone breaks the law in this country, they have to pay for having broken the law. If you do the crime, you have to do the time. Well, what we are saying is that the law has been broken, and they are going to have to pay

very hefty penalties in order to come into compliance with the law.

We also say they have to go to the back of the line. The fact that someone came here illegally and crossed the border illegally will not give them an advantage against those who are trying to come in through our system in a very legal fashion. So all these people, the new Z cardholders, will go to the back of the line.

The next thing we will do is, we will require them to return home before they can apply for their green card. They will have to go home to a country outside the United States and do a touchback before they are able to come back in. We will require them to learn English. We will require them to remain crime free. I could go on and on with respect to the requirements.

I have often said to those who claim this is amnesty, this is not amnesty, this is purgatory. You are basically taking these 12 million people and putting them in a purgatory status for a very long time before they would ultimately be eligible for a green card. That is a purgatory for a minimum of 8 years and for many as much as 12 years.

The legislation that has been crafted in a bipartisan way that is before this body is legislation which is tough, it is fair, it is practical, it is realistic. Our national security requires us to move forward with this legislation. Our economic security requires us to get to the finish line. The moral values of America that have guided America for so long require us to be successful in this mission.

As we conclude the week's debate on immigration, I would like to read a prayer, a prayer that was written by a person who knew a lot about immigration because he saw a lot of the victimization that occurred when there was a broken system of immigration in this country. That was the founder and President of the United Farm Workers of America, César Chávez, who passed away in 1993. He was a friend of mine. I knew him, and I knew his family. This is what he wrote. He said in his prayer:

Show me the suffering of the most miserable;
So I will know my people's plight.
Free me to pray for others;
For you are present in every person.
Help me take responsibility for my own life;
So that I can be free at last.
Grant me courage to serve others;
For in service there is true life.
Give me honesty and patience;
So that the spirit will live among us.
Let the spirit flourish and grow;
So that we will never tire of the struggle.
Let us remember those who have died for justice;
For they have given us life.
Help us love even those who hate us;
So that we can change the world.

That was written by César Chávez, the founder of the United Farm Workers. I think his inspiration has appeal today. It is yet another way to give us a clarion call to come to a successful conclusion of this immigration debate

which is here on the floor of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 1183, AS MODIFIED

I ask unanimous consent that the Clinton amendment, No. 1183, be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows.

On page 260, line 13, strike “567,000” and insert “480,000”.

On page 260, line 19, strike “127,000” and insert “40,000”.

On page 269, line 18, insert “or the child or spouse of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence” after “United States”.

On page 269, line 22, insert “or lawful permanent resident” after “citizen”.

On page 269, line 23, insert “or lawful permanent resident” after “citizen”.

On page 269, line 23, insert “or lawful permanent resident’s” after “citizen’s”.

On page 269, line 24, insert “or lawful permanent resident” after “citizen”.

On page 269, line 25, insert “or lawful permanent resident’s” after “citizen’s”.

On page 269, line 26, insert “or lawful permanent resident’s” after “citizen’s”.

On page 269, line 32, insert “or lawful permanent resident’s” after “citizen’s”.

On page 269, line 41, insert “or lawful permanent resident” after “citizen”.

On page 270, strike lines 18 through 27.

On page 270, line 29, strike the first “(3)” and insert “(2)”.

On page 271, line 17, strike “(4)” and insert “(3)”.

On page 273, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(5) RULES FOR DETERMINING WHETHER CERTAIN ALIENS ARE IMMEDIATE RELATIVES.—Section 201(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(f)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “paragraphs (2) and (3),” and inserting “paragraph (2),”; and

(ii) by striking “(b)(2)(A)(i)” and inserting “(b)(2)”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(D) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “(b)(2)(A)” and inserting “(b)(2)”.

(6) NUMERICAL LIMITATION TO ANY SINGLE FOREIGN STATE.—Section 202 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152) is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (4); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

(7) ALLOCATION OF IMMIGRATION VISAS.—Section 203(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(h)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsections (a)(2)(A) and (d)” and inserting “subsection (d)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “becomes available for such alien (or, in the case of subsection (d), the date on which an immigrant visa number became available for the alien’s parent),” and inserting “became available for the alien’s parent.”; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “applicable”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “The petition” and all that follows through the period and inserting “The petition described in this paragraph is a petition filed under section 204 for classification of the alien parent under subsection (a) or (b).”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “subsections (a)(2)(A) and (d)” and inserting “subsection (d)”.

(8) PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING IMMIGRANT STATUS.—Section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by inserting “or legal permanent resident” after “citizen” each place that term appears; and

(bb) in subclause (II)(aa)(CC)(bbb), by inserting “or legal permanent resident” after “citizenship”;

(II) in clause (iv)—

(aa) by inserting “or legal permanent resident” after “citizen” each place that term appears; and

(bb) by inserting “or legal permanent resident” after “citizenship”;

(III) in clause (v)(I), by inserting “or legal permanent resident” after “citizen”; and

(IV) in clause (vi)—

(aa) by inserting “or legal permanent resident status” after “renunciation of citizenship”; and

(bb) by inserting “or legal permanent resident” after “abuser’s citizenship”;

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B);

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (J) as subparagraphs (B) through (I), respectively;

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking “subparagraph (A)(iii), (A)(iv), (B)(ii), or (B)(iii)” and inserting “clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (A)”;

(v) in subparagraph (I), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “or clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (B)”;

(II) by striking “under subparagraphs (C) and (D)” and inserting “under subparagraphs (B) and (C)”;

(B) by striking subsection (a)(2);

(C) in subsection (h), by striking “or a petition filed under subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii)”;

and

(D) in subsection (j), by striking “subsection (a)(1)(D)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)(C)”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, in the last few days, I have come to the floor to speak about reform of our broken health care system: how to make that system run better, so that tens of billions of dollars are not wasted every year, so we no longer lose as many as 100,000 Americans every year to avoidable medical errors, so that we no longer spend vastly more of our GDP every year than any other industrialized nation for poorer health care outcomes.

I believe three central things need to be reformed. One is improving the quality of care in ways that drive down costs. I spoke about that on Tuesday and used the example of an intensive care unit reform in Michigan that saved \$165 million in 15 months and saved over 1,500-plus lives. We need to encourage a lot more of that. The second major reform we need is of health information technology, and I spoke yesterday about the dire state of infor-

mation technology in health care today—the Economist magazine reported that the health care industry was the worst of any American industry except the mining industry and the significant savings we could generate from expanding our use of health information technology. The RAND Corporation predicted that adequate health information technology would save us from \$81 billion to \$364 billion per year. We need desperately to capture those savings.

Today, I want to talk about the third piece of this reform: repairing our health care reimbursement system, the way we pay for health care, so that the economic signals we send into the system produce the care we want. Improving quality of care will be an uphill struggle until our payment system rewards it. Health information technology will lag behind other industries until the economics of investing in it makes sense for participants in the health care sector.

These problems can each be fixed, but the repair will work better if the three solutions proceed together, not necessarily as one, but staying close, because they are mutually reinforcing.

The payment system for health care expenditures today sends all the wrong messages: it rewards procedures rather than prevention; it rewards office visits more than email contacts; it neglects best practices and discourages innovation. To a large degree, the system has been co-opted by today’s unfortunate business model for health insurance. This is a business model which seeks first to cherry-pick the healthy customers and abandon the sick ones, second to try to deny coverage if a customer does get sick, and third to try to deny claims whenever their sick customer’s doctor tries to send in the bills. Health care economics gets in the way of the change we need, gets in the way of improved quality of care, gets in the way of investment in information technology and illness prevention, and gets in the way of lowered costs.

The problem is best exemplified by a tale from a book called “Demanding Medical Excellence” by Michael Millenson. Northfield, MN, Madam President, is a town I am sure you know. It is a town of only a few thousand people, but it was home to four very innovative doctors at Family Physicians of Northfield. They discovered they could reduce the average treatment cost of a urinary tract infection from \$133 to only \$39, a savings of nearly 70 percent, by changing their practice pattern. Instead of doing an office examination, a complete urinalysis and culture, sensitivity studies for antibiotics, prescribing ten days of antibiotics, and a follow-up culture, they attained the same results with a phone conversation with a patient, a complete urinalysis, and a prescription for three days of antibiotics. But pretty soon, the Family Physicians at Northfield were so good at treating their patients—for urinary tract infections and other diagnoses—that their

waiting room was empty. As a reward for their good work, the practice lost so much revenue, from never-performed lab tests and empty appointment calendars that, in 1995, Family Physicians of Northfield, was forced to close. These doctors were taught a harsh, and perverse, lesson by our present health care system, and that lesson is: reduce costs and improve care, and you will be punished.

In Rhode Island, our hospitals are pursuing quality improvement projects in every intensive care unit in the state, modeled on the Michigan program that saved \$165 million in 15 months and over 1,500 lives as well. The Rhode Island intensive care unit program had a significant hurdle to overcome, however: the cost was expected to be \$400,000 annually per intensive care unit, and the hospitals had to pay it. The savings were estimated to be \$8 million, but those savings would not go back to the hospitals. The savings went to payers. So, for its \$400,000 invested, a hospital actually stood to lose money, from shorter intensive care unit stays and fewer complications, so fewer procedures to remedy the complications. Truly pushing that quality envelope, and striving for zero tolerance in infections and errors, was against the hospital's best economic best interests. It took the special, collegial relationships developed within our Rhode Island Quality Institute to solve this payment dilemma between our hospitals and insurers.

A similar analysis pertains to prevention investments. The payer has to shoulder 100 percent of the cost today, but the savings in forestalled illness might not occur for years. Maybe by then the customer will be some other insurer's customer, then maybe Medicare's. If you are the insurer, why take the chance and assume that cost, if the savings will not accrue to you?

There are many ways to repair perverse incentives in the way we pay for health care, but one that makes sense to me and uses existing infrastructure would be the following. Let medical societies and specialty groups, who create "best-practices" within their specialty, submit those best practices—including cost-effective prevention programs—for approval by local health departments. If, after suitable administrative procedures, the best practices are approved, reward the effort by differentiating, in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates, between care that follows the local best practices and care that does not. Reward the effort by forbidding any insurer operating in interstate commerce—any health insurer—from using "utilization review"—that is their word for denying payment—for care that is delivered within these approved best practices. Require them to pay all those claims, in which the provider followed best practice protocols, within 30 days.

The legislation I have prepared will do just that.

This legislation sets a lot of good forces in motion. It encourages devel-

opment and dissemination of best practices in medicine. It encourages doctors to follow those best practices, and discourages the wide and unjustifiable variations in medical treatment evident now. It encourages a sensible one-time debate in a professional, administrative forum at the time approval or amendment of the best practices is sought, and it discourages the wildly expensive payment battle now fought, claim by claim, between insurers and providers. I know from my experience as the insurance commissioner for Rhode Island how much time and money insurers and providers spend in claims administration. Studies have estimated that \$20 billion is spent every year in this bitter and expanding arms race, both by insurers seeking to deny claims and doctors seeking to defend their claims, and every dollar of that fight is wasted. Doctors in Rhode Island tell me regularly that as much as half of their staff is engaged in this billing battle. Instead of in providing health care for their patients.

My legislation will engage the medical community in a thoughtful way. It will bring best practices to the forefront. There is a lot of discussion about comparative efficiency in health care today, debates over which treatments and methods are most effective—this legislation will provide a truly meaningful forum for those discussions. An example: Recently, the New York Times reported on a 40-step protocol implemented for bypass surgery patients by Geisinger Health Systems, which right now can be implemented only within Geisinger hospitals. This bill would allow these protocols, if pursued by the local cardiology association and approved by the State health department, to get favorable reimbursement statewide. I hope this bill will help the health insurance industry look to a new business model where your insurance company is looking out for you, is your advocate when you are sick, reminds you when testing or prevention is appropriate, helps you find the best practices or care, where your insurer is your navigator and your adviser in the health care system instead of your adversary.

This legislation can help repair our health care system. It puts the priorities and incentives in the right place so market forces are unleashed in our favor. It uses existing structures, just in new ways. It is designed and mandated to be budget neutral. And it does no harm if it does not work right away, if doctors do not take it up, if health departments will not hold the hearings, no harm is done. But let's give it a chance to work.

Let me close by saying how important this moment is. I serve on the Budget Committee and have heard the troubling facts about what the health care system will cost us in years to come. By the year 2050, the combined cost of Medicare and Medicaid will rise to eat up 22 percent of our gross domestic product. Further, as my friend

Budget Chairman CONRAD has noted, the 75-year net present value of the unfunded liabilities in Social Security and Medicare equal \$38.6 trillion, and \$33.9 trillion of this total is for Medicare alone. The health care system is eating up our economy, costing twice as much as the European Union average. There is more health care than steel in Ford cars and more health care than coffee beans in Starbucks coffee. It is significantly hampering our competitiveness. It is the number one cause of American family bankruptcies.

By acting now, by acting in advance, by bringing some sensible economics and some sensible management and some helpful incentives to our health care system, we can start to grapple with its cost. And if we take on that fight here and now, while time is still on our side, we can reduce costs in the best possible way: by improving the quality of care, by making Americans healthier, by preventing illness before we have to treat it, by avoiding expensive and often fatal medical errors, by giving our doctors the decision support other professionals have had for decades, in sum, by making our health care system better. Considering the stakes, shame on us if we fail in that duty.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE DEMOCRATS

Mr. REID. Madam President, Democrats earned the majority in Congress last year by strongly opposing the President's failed Iraq policy and advocating restoration of the values of working families in relation to our Government. The American people sent a clear message last November it was time to change course in Iraq. Congressional Democrats made that our top priority in the first day in this Congress, and have every day since. In less than 4 months, we have been able to send to the President's desk a number of things to keep our Government open; and that is the case literally.

In less than 4 months, we have been able to send to the President's desk things he refused in years past, because now there is a Congressional branch he has to deal with.

As it relates to Iraq, the President has vetoed the bill which reflected the wishes of the American public and many senior military leaders and a bipartisan majority of Congress.

Last night we sent him another bill that doesn't go as far as I would like, and the majority of the Democratic Senators, and that is an understatement. But it does begin the process of holding the President and the Iraqis accountable.

POLLING DATA

I think it is important to note how the American people feel, that this isn't just a bunch of politicians talking in Washington. There was a poll taken by the New York Times and CBS that was reported today. It was a very in-depth poll. When we do polls at home, those of us who serve in government, they do samplings of 400 to 600 people. This poll was twice that big. Almost 1,200 adults were sampled, so the margin of error was very low when this poll was done.

Among other things, it said 61 percent of Americans say the United States should have stayed out of Iraq, and 76 percent say things are going badly there, including 47 percent who say things are going very badly. President Bush's approval ratings remain the lowest of his office in more than 6 years: 30 percent approve of the job he is doing; 63 percent disapprove. More Americans, 27 percent, now say that generally things in the country are seriously offtrack. This is the lowest number of approval and the highest disapproval rating since these polls have been taken.

Public support for the war has eroded: 61 percent say the country should have stayed out of Iraq; a majority, 76 percent, including 51 percent of Republicans, say additional troops sent to Iraq this year by Mr. Bush either have had no impact or are making things worse. Most Americans support a timetable for withdrawal; 63 percent say the United States should set a date for withdrawing troops from Iraq sometime next year. The poll found Americans are more likely to trust the Democratic Party than the Republican Party by a significant margin. More than half said the Democratic Party was more likely than the Republican Party to make the right decisions about the war. More broadly, 53 percent of those polled said they have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party.

As for Mr. Bush, 23 percent approve of his handling of the situation in Iraq, 23 percent; 72 percent disapprove. Madam President, 25 percent approve of his handling of foreign policy; 65 percent disapprove. And 27 percent approve of his handling of immigration issues, while 60 percent disapprove.

SENATE AGENDA

Regarding the war in Iraq, I have spoken over the last week to two parents in Nevada—one in Reno, one in Fernley—who have lost sons in Iraq. Multiply that almost 3,500 times. I can't imagine the grief and despair. During the last 3 days, 17 American soldiers and marines have been killed in Iraq, 3 days—9, 2, and 6. It is an American tragedy. As I said last night on this floor, we will not stop our efforts to change the course of this war until either enough Republicans join us with regard to this war to reject the President's failed policies or we get a new President.

At the same time we have opposed the President's Iraq policy, we have

moved forward on legislation that invests in our security, our economy, and our health. In a matter of days, we will have as law a raise in the minimum wage. Sixty percent of the people who draw the minimum wage in America are women, and for more than half those women that is the only money they get for their families. It was important that we raise the minimum wage, and we did that. It was long overdue.

We have also provided, and will shortly have signed into law, \$400 million to ensure that States don't run out of money for the State Children's Health Insurance Program. In the coming weeks, we will seek to reauthorize this successful program that keeps millions of children healthy. We may not be doing much for adults in health insurance, but we are taking steps forward with our children.

For 3 years we have tried to pass legislation that would give relief to farmers and ranchers. We have been unable to do that. The Republican majority has refused to allow us to do that. Disaster relief for farmers and ranchers, we did that. That is now going to be signed into law, \$3 billion. Farms have gone bankrupt in the ensuing years of the need for this relief. I would suggest, if you look on the Internet at what an emergency supplemental is all about, it talks about emergencies that occur during the year—floods, fires, drought, hurricanes, tornadoes. That is why what we did last night, farm relief, \$3 billion to help farmers and ranchers recover from drought, flood, storms, and other disasters is long overdue. That will be the law in a matter of days.

Because of global warming, the western part of the United States has been swept with wildfires. In Nevada, millions of acres have burned. When these areas burn, we get noxious weeds that come instead of the plants and grasses that should be there. We are going to have in a short few days relief. The law has been passed, western wildfire relief, \$465 million to help prevent and fight wildfires in the west and elsewhere. That is so important.

As I understand, there has been a raging fire on the border of Minnesota and Canada. It has taken days to put that fire out. That is what we are talking about. It should have been done a long time ago. We have had to fight for this. I can remember going to the White House, being told by one of the President's assistants: Don't worry about that. We will do it with one of the regular bills.

We are limited on what we can do on regular bills. This is emergency funding. The President has gone to New Orleans, LA, more than 20 times since those devastating floods that occurred there as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The President has talked about it but done very little. We did something about it. We have overcome the opposition of the White House, and in the bill that we passed last night, we provided

nearly \$6.3 billion to help the people of the gulf coast affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Homeland security—Senator BYRD, from his seat right here, over the last 5 years has offered many amendments. He wrote a book and talks in his book about the times he offered amendments to do something about homeland security. It was defeated on a straight party line basis many times. Last night we weren't defeated on a straight party line basis. We didn't get enough, but we did get a billion dollars to look at programs that are all so absolutely important and necessary: port security, \$110 million; rail and mass transit security, \$100 million; explosive detection systems for airline baggage. It is interesting with our airlines, you climb in one of those seats in the airplane. You are seated. You feel pretty comfortable about the person sitting next to you. But you don't know what is in the cargo of that airplane. We got some money for that last night, as well we should. Air cargo security, \$80 million to inspect cargo on commercial passenger airlines; \$285 million for explosive detection systems for airline baggage. It was long overdue—not enough but certainly a step in the right direction.

The Republicans had a majority of 55 to 45. They couldn't pass a budget because it was so skewed toward the rich, so skewed toward the business community and directed against working class America, they couldn't pass it. We have a majority, with Senator TIM JOHNSON being ill, of 50 to 49, not 55 to 45. But we passed a budget. We passed a balanced budget that restores fiscal discipline and puts the middle class first, cutting their taxes while increasing investment in education, veterans care, and children's health care.

For the second year in a row, we legislated to give the hope of stem cell research to millions of Americans who suffer from all kinds of diseases. There is one Senator holding up our overriding the President's veto. It could be any one of these Republican Senators. We are at 66. We need one more to override the President's obstinance in the form of this veto.

What the President has done to stifle hope for millions of Americans is wrong. We were at a Senate retreat. Michael J. Fox came in, someone whom Rush Limbaugh made fun of because he shakes when he talks. He has Parkinson's disease. The renown actor came up and talked to us about his money he has put in to find a cure for other people who have Parkinson's disease. He has done good work because the human genome project is completed, and they found the gene that causes Michael J. Fox's neurological problems. But he said: We need more help. Stem cell research would help us find out a way to attack that gene, to take care of that gene. But the President has stifled, stopped, slowed down the hope of millions of people just like Michael J. Fox.

Several other important bills have passed and will soon be on the their way to the President, such as a continuing resolution. This is not a name I came up with, the "do-nothing" 109th Congress. The Republicans controlled by significant margins the House and the Senate, and they have been dubbed by historians and the press as the do-nothing Congress. They did less and served their constituents less days in actual work in the Senate and the House than in the history of the country. They did less and were in session less than the do-nothing Congress of 1948.

One of the things they didn't do is fund the Government. They lost the elections last November and just left town and unfunded the Government. So there was a responsibility upon us, the Democrats, to fund the Government from February 1 to October 1. We did that. It wasn't easy, but we did it.

The 9/11 Commission, the President fought it. But there was a hue and cry to establish an independent bipartisan commission to look at what happened on 9/11, what went wrong. Led by Congressman Hamilton and Governor Kean, this independent bipartisan commission came up with recommendations. We waited almost 3 years for the Republican Congress to do something. They did basically nothing. The 9/11 Commission, in fact, gave the Bush administration failing grades, Ds and Fs, in all that they asked Congress and the President to do. But we, the Democratic Congress, passed all the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission after they had been pushed aside for all those years. Now, within a matter of weeks, the House will do the same, and we will send this matter to the President and have him sign it.

Ethics. The most significant ethics and lobbying reform in the history of our country we did as the first bill we took up. With the culture of corruption that existed here in Washington in the 109th Congress with—think about this: Am I making up a culture of corruption? For the first time in 130 years—approximately 130 years—someone who was working in the White House was indicted. "Scooter" Libby was indicted and convicted. Safavian, who was head of Government contracting, appointed by the President and responsible for billions of dollars, was led away from his office in handcuffs because of sweetheart deals he made with Jack Abramoff and others.

On the other side of the Capitol, in the House, the majority leader in the House was convicted of three ethics violations in 1 year. What did they do to respond to that? Changed the ethics rules. He is also under indictment.

So there certainly was a culture of corruption. Staff members are still under investigation. Congressmen are still under investigation because of this culture of corruption. Members of Congress have had to resign or have lost their races because of being involved in unethical and criminal activities.

Yes, there was a culture of corruption, and we took this up as our first legislative measure and passed it. The House passed it yesterday. We need to go to conference now and send that to the President.

As we all know, we have begun debate on immigration reform. We are continuing that the week we get back. We have taken action on 7 of our top 10 legislative priorities we introduced on the first day of the 110th Congress. It is tradition that the majority party introduces the first 10 bills. We did that. Seven of them we have passed.

In the coming weeks, we expect to turn our attention to the remaining three.

Energy. As soon as we finish immigration, we are moving to energy legislation. It is bipartisan. It is legislation that has been reported out of the Energy Committee on a bipartisan basis, legislation reported out of the Environment and Public Works Committee on a bipartisan basis, and legislation that has come from the Commerce Committee on a bipartisan basis.

It is not everything I want but a great start for one of the big problems we have facing America today: energy.

In the State of Nevada, my home, we have the third highest gas prices in the country—Nevada. In Reno, NV, gas prices are around \$3.40 a gallon. We need to do something about it.

The gluttony of the oil companies is unbelievable—making tens of billions of dollars. It is so interesting, every time at just about Memorial Day, when people want to travel, their refineries go down, they need repair. Who makes all the money? It is not the person you go to who pumps gas in your car or even a self-service station you go to. They make pennies. They make less than a nickel a gallon. In Reno, NV, and other places in the country, you can pay \$3.40 a gallon at the place you buy that gasoline, and that person makes almost nothing. It is made by the gluttonous oil companies, the refiners—record profits, of course.

We are going to take a whack at that. I hope we can get it passed. It has some interesting things in it. One of the things it has is CAFE standards, saying automobiles in our country should be required to have higher mileage per gallon. We are going to try to get that done.

The bill also includes some legislation dealing with alternative energy. We cannot produce our way out of the problems we have in America with oil. We have less than 3 percent of the oil in the world in America. We cannot produce our way out of our problems. We have to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

Today, in America, we will use 21 million barrels of oil. It is hard for me to comprehend there is that much oil in the ground, let alone our use of it in 1 day. We import about 65 percent of that oil. This oil comes from some of the worst tyrannical governments in the world. Much of that money is used

to export communism and other bad things to countries, including to America.

We must lessen our dependence on foreign oil. This administration is the most oil-friendly administration in the history of our country. So we are going to take up this legislation the second week we get back. The bill will dramatically increase America's renewable fuel production so we can begin the crucial long-term effort to reduce our dependence on unsustainable and volatile energy supplies I have talked about.

The bill requires consumer appliances, buildings, lighting and, most importantly, vehicles to become much more energy efficient. The Federal Government's own energy performance will be significantly improved as well.

I so appreciate Senator BINGAMAN, the chairman of the Energy Committee, and Senator BOXER, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, whose career has been based on things dealing with the environment. Senator INOUE, chairman of the Commerce Committee, and his right-hand person in this effort, Senator KERRY, have done remarkably good work.

This legislation will address the growing threat of price gouging and energy market manipulation as gas prices continue to set new record highs almost every day.

I have been so impressed with MARIA CANTWELL, the Senator from Washington, for her continual efforts to go after these big gluttonous oil companies. Her price-gouging legislation and energy market manipulation legislation has been, in my opinion, a picture of how we should legislate.

Education. We expect to address reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in the next few weeks—in the next few months, probably more likely. I hope to do it, complete it, before our August recess.

Since the act was last authorized in 1998, college costs have continued to skyrocket. A growing number of students are being priced out of a college education and all the doors it opens. A child's ability to be educated should not be dependent on how much money their parents have.

I, of course, am a big fan of early childhood education. I was so impressed yesterday, not far from here, the conservative reporter—I should not say reporter—editorial writer, David Brooks, from the New York Times, talked about his belief of young people being educated and how he had become a convert and he now believes that the Government should be involved in getting kids educated.

Many of those lucky enough to make it through college now begin their careers saddled by the weight of the money they have had to borrow. In Nevada, the average debt of a student is \$15,000. That is unacceptable. It is not unusual for someone to graduate from medical school owing \$150,000.

Now, people say: Well, doctors make a lot of money. They do not make that much money. One of my friends, a prominent physician in Las Vegas—I do not think he will mind me mentioning his name; if he does, he can call me—Dr. Tony Alamo worked hard all his life—his father came in a boat from Cuba—believes in education. The senior Tony Alamo did everything he could to get his kids educated. He had a boy become a doctor.

Now, young Tony is one of the lucky ones because his dad has done so well with the rags-to-riches story in America, and I am sure as to his debt, his dad could help him pay it off, if necessary. But Dr. Alamo is very unusual because he has parents who can help him. He has explained to me that when doctors graduate from medical school, they get a job, and a lot of jobs now are with managed care, being they are all over, and they are salary jobs. They have difficulty with their salary job paying off their loans.

Our legislation will increase the maximum Pell grant, reduce student loan interest rates, expand loan forgiveness programs, and cap student loan payments at no more than 15 percent of their income. Our bill takes important steps to address this alarming and growing crisis.

We are going to take up the next work period the Defense authorization bill. One of the things we talked about doing in one of our 10 bills is to rebuild our military. It is in a state of disarray, disrepair. We learned that when we found out from the Governor of Kansas, after that tornado, that half of the equipment of her National Guard was in Iraq. Could not respond to the crisis there. It is that way all over the country.

JIM WEBB, who is a Senator from Virginia—JIM WEBB has a résumé of an American hero because that is what he is. He is a graduate of the Naval Academy, fought heroically in Vietnam, earned medals for heroism, was badly injured. His military career ended not because he wanted it to but because he was hurt and had to get out.

He believes the most important thing we can do to hold the President's feet to the fire in Iraq is force him to make sure our troops are ready to go to battle, they are trained properly, they have that equipment. He has an amendment we are going to work on to get in the Defense authorization bill.

One of the boys killed from Nevada this past week was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq. His friend said: He told me he survived four explosions, and he didn't think he would survive another one. He did not. It was an awful death. We now have two hostages, prisoners of war in Iraq. Remember, when they were captured, they did not know who for sure the three were because they knew there was a body in the Humvee. So I called and talked to the dad, and he prayed that his boy was not in the Humvee, that he was a prisoner. But it didn't work. His boy was incinerated in

the Humvee. They could only find out who he was with DNA. He was on his fourth tour of duty.

That is what JIM WEBB is advocating. That is what we advocate. We are going to take that up in the Defense authorization bill, to make sure our troops have what they need. They do not have that now.

The bill last night that we passed provides funding to ensure our troops, until the first of October—active and retired—get some of the money they need. But we have to restore and renovate what has been ruined and damaged in Iraq.

JACK REED, a graduate of West Point, believes it will take nearly \$100 billion to bring our military up to what it should be. We are going to work toward that in the Defense authorization bill. That committee is chaired by CARL LEVIN. So we are going to make investments, critical investments to address troop readiness problems in the Army and Marine Corps caused by the President's flawed Iraq policy.

We will take a number of steps to reconfigure our national security strategy to better meet the threats and challenges we face today. That includes returning focus to the growing and increasingly overlooked problems in Afghanistan and working to improve special operations capabilities.

So once the next work session is complete, we will have taken action on all 10 of our day one priorities and passed most of them with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Now, we have had to fight to get that support, with cloture, on many different issues to get to where we could have a vote. But we have made it, and I appreciate that help from the Republicans.

We have also successfully addressed many crucial issues not on that list. The FDA reauthorization bill we passed facilitates the timely review of new drugs while improving the safety of the medicines patients take and the food we eat. We passed the Water Resources Development Act, known as WRDA, the first one in about 6 or 7 years. It will protect America's environment and keep our economy strong. We also passed the America COMPETES Act, which is an act to return our country to a position of leadership in science, research, and technology.

I would say by far the most important fight we have taken up this year is our effort to oppose the President's failed Iraq policy and bring the war to a safe and responsible end. The next work period, as I have indicated, will oppose the President's failed policy regarding the war at every turn. The Defense authorization bill will be a major part of that battle. We will continue this fight every day. We have had some bipartisan victories this year and some tough fights as well. Progress especially on the war has not come easy and that is not likely to change. But if we continue to work in good faith, seeking bipartisanship at every oppor-

tunity, I have no doubt we can accomplish great things for the American people.

Madam President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I voted in favor of the Vitter amendment yesterday because I do not support a plan that tells those who came to this country illegally up until December 31 of last year that they are excused and now have legal status.

I think that is a mistake.

But I do want to state clearly that there are a fair number of those 12 million people who came in here without legal authorization whose status must be resolved in a sensitive way. I am talking about those who have been here for decades, who have raised families, worked hard, and been model citizens. I believe we should adjust their status and give them an opportunity to earn citizenship.

That same right, however, should not apply to someone who just last December decided that they were going to sneak into this country illegally.

My understanding is that we will have additional amendments that will be sensitive to the need to distinguish that difference and I intend to support the amendments that will provide the sensitivity to those immigrants who have been here leading productive lives for a long period of time.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR TED STEVENS

Mr. BOND. Madam President, in April, TED STEVENS became the longest serving Republican Member of the United States Senate in our country's 230-year history. I join my colleagues in congratulating the Senator and thanking him for his many years of service and our friendship.

Much has already been said about Senator STEVENS' sometimes grouchy and intimidating demeanor. But if we look past the hulk ties, the scowling countenance, the vigorous defense of any and all attacks on Alaskan priorities, and the cowed staff who fear that they have fallen on the wrong side of our esteemed senior Senator, we see another, more compassionate side.

When I first arrived in Washington, DC, in 1987, my son was entering first grade at the same time as TED's beloved daughter. Sam and Lily became fast friends, and so did their parents.

TED and Catherine were very close friends of ours and like godparents to Sam. Anyone who knows TED well

knows how important his family is and the high value he places on his children and their friends. He is truly a most kind, gentle, and readily approachable father, uncle, and godfather.

His concern about others' children and family members is equally heartfelt. As he exercises his many leadership roles, Senator STEVENS is always willing to take our family obligations into account. He realizes how important it is to schedule time for our families in the chaotic, hectic life we lead in the United States Senate.

In addition to the close personal friendship we have enjoyed with the Stevens family, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Chairman STEVENS as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As chairman, TED is solicitous of the concerns of even his most junior members. He is also a devoted friend of his partner—sometimes ranking member and sometimes chairman—Senator DAN INOUE.

While there is never any doubt that he and Senator INOUE control the Defense Appropriations call, Senator STEVENS is sensitive and receptive to the needs of other Members to the greatest extent possible.

He is a very passionate defender of the Appropriations Committee, its prerogatives, and its responsibilities. Woe unto the person who attacks the appropriations process or the work that he does. One soon learns that such a position is not one to be taken lightly. One had better be prepared for a bruising fight.

As President pro tempore, he was a faithful and dedicated leader of the Senate. Now that he is—temporarily—out of that position, he continues a close working relationship with his good friend and colleague Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, the current President pro tempore.

It is, indeed, an honor to have him as our leading senior Republican in the Senate.

The Senator's influence extends far beyond the Senate to Alaska, the Nation and the world.

Many of the accomplishments of the Senate over the last 4 decades bear the mark of TED STEVENS. He has been tireless in his leadership to secure a strong military—and has funded a strong personnel system, the most needed, up-to-date equipment and the most promising research. The current strength and superiority of the U.S. Armed Forces is due in no small part to Senator STEVENS.

He has also been a leader in the natural resources, transportation issues, and climate change issues important to all of America but that particularly affect his home state.

TED is passionate about Alaska—its natural beauty, its people, its needs and its fishing. Many of us have enjoyed traveling to Alaska with Senator STEVENS and discovering first-hand the treasures it has to offer.

The many roads, parks and buildings named for him are but a hint of all he

has done for the State. His contributions are extensive and lasting, from improving the infrastructure to safeguarding the wildlife and natural resources Alaska has in abundance.

Alaskans rightly dubbed the Senator the "Alaska of the Twentieth Century." I am sure Senator STEVENS would remind us that he is not done yet. Odds are he is a favorite to be "Alaskan of the Twenty-first Century" as well.

It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve with TED STEVENS. I look forward to many more years of working together.

Mr. MARTINEZ, Madam President, I wish to acknowledge an esteemed colleague and his long and storied service to the United States Senate. Senator TED STEVENS has given much to this great country of ours. Born in Indiana, he spent his college years in the West, his law school years in the East, and made significant contributions in a place far north of here. Yet he achieved much of this by heading south, to our Nation's Capital. His career reflects his dedication not only to Alaska but to all of America. He has touched every corner of this country—and beyond. Fighting in China during World War II, he served our Nation valiantly as a member of the Army Air Corps where he flew support missions for the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force. Now, more than six decades later, he is still serving our country.

Following work as an attorney in Alaska in the 1950s, TED STEVENS headed for Washington to work for the Department of Interior under the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It is worth noting that it was President Eisenhower who signed Alaska into statehood in July of 1958. Not too long after Alaska found statehood, he decided to return to the home he had made in the Last Frontier. Soon, he was serving in the State house of representatives—a body of which he became the majority leader in 1964. While he may have initially found his way to the U.S. Senate by virtue of appointment in 1968, he soon had the weight of his State's voters behind him.

Now serving his seventh term in office, Senator STEVENS has been a reliable supporter of his home State's interests and has supported our country in many of its most trying times. The institutional knowledge and wisdom which Senator STEVENS brings to the Senate benefits this body greatly. All of us appreciate his work and contributions to America. Be it as the former chairman of the Commerce Committee, the former chairman of the Appropriations Committee, a strong voice and dedicated member of the Homeland Security Committee or for his work on the Rules Committee—we thank him for his leadership, past and present.

Congratulations to Senator STEVENS on becoming the longest serving Republican in Senate history. His more than 14,000 days in this body are a remarkable testament to his hard work,

staying power, and skills as a Senator. I know the people of Alaska appreciate all that he has done for them over these numerous decades. On behalf of my fellow Floridians, I thank Senator STEVENS for his service to America and to the Senate.

RETIREMENT OF VICE ADMIRAL BARRY COSTELLO

Mr. LEAHY, Madam President, In the opening days of the war in Iraq in 2003, before ground forces moved into the country, I received an e-mail at a particularly suitable moment. Just when I was about to step into a meeting with President Bush at the White House, in came a message from my friend and colleague, then two-star Rear Admiral Barry Costello.

Admiral Costello was in command of Cruiser-Destroyer Group One, based in the Persian Gulf. Its flotilla, including the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation*, was launching cruise missile and air strikes, while its contingent of over 7,000 marines waited to move into the country. Barry poignantly said, "we are in the forefront—and are working hard to make America proud."

I showed that note to the President. He and I disagreed on pretty much everything in the runup to the war, but at that moment we had a shared pride in Barry and the men and women under his command. The expertise, dedication, and sheer patriotism on display there in the gulf was beyond question. That moment crystallized the depth of gratitude that not only we elected leaders in Washington but also every Vermonter and American feel for our Armed Forces.

Barry Costello has recently retired from the Navy after a stellar 36-year career. At every stage, before and after his command during the second Iraq war, professionalism and pure competence have been deeply etched in Barry's career. Whether in postings on the Joint Staff or on the USS *Elliot*, which he commanded, Barry has impressed those above and below him in the chain of command. His knowledge of the Navy—its organization, its mission, its capabilities is unrivaled.

That thoroughgoing command of his surroundings, that superb ability to contribute to the larger organization made him a natural to serve as a legislative liaison here in the Senate and Congress as a whole. Whenever I or any of my colleagues had a question about some program, however obscure, Barry could answer it or get us answer in pretty short order. He was a strong conduit in the other direction too, providing insights to the senior Navy and Department of Defense leadership about the concerns of Congress. In short, he was the perfect liaison.

It was fitting that Barry capped his career with command of the Navy's Third Fleet, based out in San Diego. One of the most powerful forces in our military's arsenal, the Third Fleet established itself with distinguished service under the legendary ADM William

F. "Bull" Halsey. Barry's leadership combines the steadfastness of Halsey and the eagle-eye vision of a Nimitz. At the Third Fleet, he showed himself a Navy officer's officer.

At 56, Barry still has ample contributions to make to our country, whether in industry or further public service. He has already served as an inspiration to the Navy and Vermont, and I have no doubt that he will continue make enormous strides on behalf of others in whatever endeavors he pursues.

I know I will run across Barry very soon, but I want to congratulate him, his loving wife LuAnne, and their two sons Brendan and Aiden. The Senate, Vermont, and the country join me in expressing our deep gratitude. Thank you.

RURAL BROADBAND

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, I rise today to speak about rural America, and the need to ensure that this cornerstone of our way of life has the same access and availability to modern technology that many Americans take for granted. Specifically, I am referring to the availability of high-speed Internet, also known as broadband.

Broadband Internet is essential to rural development. It does for rural areas today what interstate highways did in the 20th century, and railroads did in the 19th century. It is key to attracting new businesses to rural areas, and helping our existing rural businesses grow and become more competitive.

Unfortunately, rural America continues to lag behind its urban and suburban counterparts when it comes to the availability of this essential resource. It is not that rural folks do not want broadband, but only that they do not have as much access.

In the 2002 farm bill, Congress created a loan and loan guarantee program to help build broadband out to rural areas that lacked this crucial service.

The Rural Utilities Service, RUS, an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was charged with the responsibility of administering the broadband loan program and using it to promote access in unserved, rural areas.

Unfortunately, the agency's implementation and administration of this program strayed from the rural focus Congress intended.

Instead of targeting our rural areas, huge sums of money have been used to provide broadband in urban areas, suburban developments, and towns that already have service.

Instances of waste and abuse have been clearly illustrated by the USDA inspector general, in hearings held by both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, and in prominent news reports.

There is wide, bipartisan agreement on what is wrong with this program. I believe that there should also be wide,

bipartisan agreement on how to move forward.

While a number of legislative and regulatory fixes have been suggested here in Congress and by the RUS, none so far have been comprehensive enough to surmount the challenges of deploying broadband in rural America.

I have been proud to reach out to my friend and colleague, Senator SALAZAR of Colorado, on the Senate Agriculture Committee to work toward a solution. It is the Committee on Agriculture that has jurisdiction over this program, and it is from this committee that a way forward must be found.

Together, myself and the distinguished junior Senator from Colorado, have worked toward a consensus driven, comprehensive approach to promoting broadband in rural America. On Monday of this week, we introduced legislation to accomplish this goal, the Rural Broadband Improvement Act of 2007.

This legislation will provide the secretary with additional guidance to direct broadband loans to those truly in need by clarifying where, when, and to whom loans can be made. It ties approval of loans to a requirement of nonduplication of service, making this legislation significantly more robust and less ambiguous than the current statute.

The issue of duplication of service, more than any other issue, has been the subject of criticism of the RUS. When RUS makes loans in areas that already have broadband service, it has a twofold negative affect.

First, it undermines the market. Often, rural towns may enjoy broadband availability. Small, independent providers that are already present in rural towns have their subscribers pulled out from under them by a competitor who, because they have an RUS loan, have an unfair advantage with which to offer lower rates. This can threaten the very existence of some locally owned, independent broadband providers that invested in rural towns without an RUS loan.

Second, when loans are going to areas that already have service, it means that truly unserved, rural areas for which this program was created continue to be neglected. Indeed, it is the outlying, sparsely populated areas that are in need of broadband service. These are the areas broadband loans should be made to serve—not overbuilding towns where the service is already present.

This is unacceptable. That is why this legislation which I am introducing on behalf of myself and my colleague from Colorado will attach to the definition of eligible rural community, a clearly defined requirement of non-duplication of broadband service.

Reforming and improving the broadband loan program means doing more than just addressing this one aspect for which it has been criticized. It also means eliminating unnecessary and unprecedented limitations on what borrowers are eligible to participate.

In particular, I am referring to the conspicuous 2 percent telephone subscriber line limit. This limitation acts as a disincentive for growth; unnecessarily penalizes larger, but still rural-focused phone companies; and ignores the reality that more and more households are abandoning land line subscriptions in favor of wireless communication. The bottom line is that limiting what providers can participate in the program does nothing to expedite broadband deployment in rural areas.

This legislation also streamlines the application and post-application requirements. For many small and independent providers with limited staff, it can be discouraging to look at a 38-page application guide to a 57-page application. What's more, those who go through this arduous process may wait for a seemingly indefinite period of time for a yes or no to whether their application is approved.

To address these matters, the act directs the Secretary to complete application processing within 180 days and allows parent companies and their wholly owned subsidiaries to file a single, consolidated application and post application audit report.

The bill further streamlines the application process by eliminating various other duplicative and burdensome application requirements, and directs the agency to hire whatever additional administrative, legal, and field staff are necessary to meet these requirements.

The act also contains powerful incentives to increase the feasibility of loans. First, it allows limited access to towns where broadband may be available, but in circumstances when doing so is necessary to building broadband out to the sparsely populated and outlying areas that have no service at all. I do want to stress, however, that this is not a loop-hole that will lead back to the problems of duplication and overbuild. The majority of households to be served by the project financed with an RUS loan must be without access to broadband. Additionally, the act creates better transparency and requires incumbent providers to be properly notified when an RUS applicant plans on doing so.

Second, the act ensures that collateral requirements are commensurate to the risk of the loan.

Third, instead of requiring an inflexible 20 percent equity requirement, the act provides more flexibility for small and start up companies by requiring only 10 percent equity, and allowing the agency to waive this requirement so long as the applicant can prove that it will be able to pay back the principal of the loan plus interest.

This legislation also codifies an innovative grant program based on the successes illustrated in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Broadband deployment in rural areas will work better once we know where it already is. To do this, grants will be made available to help fund partnerships between state

governments and the private sector to map where broadband is available in rural areas, and conduct outreach to areas where it is still unavailable.

I and my colleague, Senator SALAZAR, have always shared a concern for our rural citizens. I am proud to work with my neighbor to the west on this issue, and I look forward to working with my other colleagues on the Senate Agriculture Committee as we begin work on the 2007 farm bill.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. KOHL. Madam President, generation by generation, the face of America is always changing. In the next quarter of a century, the laugh lines of that face will deepen as the number of older Americans explodes. Today, those over 65 account for 12 percent of our population; in 2030, they will account for 20 percent. Academic experts, policy wonks, economists, and health care providers are conjecturing broadly about how this demographic wave will affect our society. As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am listening carefully.

It is the charge of the Aging Committee to plan accordingly for the challenges facing our seniors tomorrow and to tackle the problems confronting them today. Older American Month, which occurs each May, gives us an opportunity to highlight these issues but let me assure you that it is impossible to relegate senior issues into one neat category, and soon it will be impossible to confine our attention to them to just 1 month.

Nearly every issue dealt with by Congress affects older Americans, or is affected by them, in a unique way. From emergency preparedness to broadcast technology, from the size of the labor force to regulation of corporate marketing practices, these issues are worthy of our attention from the older person's perspective. Then there are, of course, the more obvious challenges ahead of us, such as preserving Social Security, strengthening Medicare, and improving long-term care.

In the last 5 months alone, the Aging Committee has held hearings on a myriad of matters that are of vital concern to seniors. We have examined health care coverage for America's poorest seniors under Medicare Part D's low-income subsidy. We heard from the Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve about the impact that millions of retiring baby boomers will have on our Nation's economy, and we learned about how best to retain and cater to the needs of older workers.

We have deliberated on the progress made by the nursing home industry over the last 20 years, as well as what currently needs to be done about the most neglectful, decrepit homes. Our investigative unit has shone a bright light on the shameful, deceptive sales tactics employed by certain providers of private Medicare Advantage plans.

We have put forth compelling evidence for the continuation of

SeniorCare, Wisconsin's highly efficient drug coverage program, in spite of the administration's desire to terminate it. And, I couldn't be more pleased to say, we worked with the rest of the Wisconsin delegation and in collaboration with Governor Jim Doyle to find a legislative fix to save SeniorCare, extending the program through December 31, 2009.

As demonstrated by the work I have described, it is easy to see that protecting seniors—whether from fraud, poverty, or mistreatment—is a priority for the Aging Committee. However, it is also our priority to enable them. Though older Americans are often considered to be a vulnerable segment of the population, in many ways senior citizens strengthen our society. America's seniors have had decades to master skills and garner accomplishments, often rendering them our best leaders and innovators. A lot of them are out in the forefront of professional fields, staying active within community and family life in various capacities, and leading by example.

The aging of America will affect every part of our society, and it will touch every family in decades to come. We reap the benefits of the continued contributions of older Americans, and in return they deserve the best quality of life our Nation can afford them.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING MARK STEPHENS

• Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, as chairman of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee, I would like to recognize a milestone in the career of a dedicated and committed public servant. Mark Stephens, an attorney with the Postal Regulatory Commission's Office of General Counsel, is retiring after a 33-year career. He joined the former Postal Rate Commission in 1974, and participated in the analysis and review of numerous postal rate, classification, and complaint cases.

Mark proudly notes that he started his Federal service career as a letter carrier for the old Post Office Department where he worked for three months during the summer of 1968. During his long tenure with the Commission, Mark also served in the Office of Consumer Advocate.

Mark's colleagues point to his professionalism, analytical and writing ability, and character as the embodiment of the finest qualities of public service. His insights and thoughtful counsel made a substantial contribution to the Commission's successful fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities. Mark has been a valued colleague to those at the Commission and his retirement will leave a void that will be difficult to fill.

Upon leaving the Postal Regulatory Commission, Mark intends to spend more time with his family, but will likely continue to monitor the progress

of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 which significantly enhanced the authority of the PRC. Mark Stephens is a public servant who made a difference, and I wish him much future success.●

CONGRATULATING DETECTIVE STEVEN SILFIES

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I congratulate Detective Steven Silfies of Hopkinsville, KY. Detective Silfies was recently recognized as the "2006 Trooper of the Year" by the Kentucky State Police.

Detective Silfies is a 4-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police Force. He is assigned to Kentucky State Police Post 2 located in Madisonville, KY. Prior to joining the Kentucky State Police, Detective Silfies served more than two decades in the U.S. Army. This includes tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He also currently serves as de-facto liaison officer with personnel at Fort Campbell.

Detective Silfies truly exemplifies what it means to serve and protect the citizens of Kentucky. During the past year, Detective Silfies has played an integral role in the investigation of six murders. His devotion has led to two arrests in those investigations. Silfies also has played a prominent role in the solving of several cold cases. These include an arrest in a 27-year-old case of an out-of-State resident. Detective Silfies took a leading role in another cold case involving an out-of-State resident. This was a 13-year-old case in which Silfies uncovered overlooked evidence.

I congratulate Detective Silfies on this achievement. To be singled out among such a dedicated police force is truly an honor. He is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to dedicated police everywhere. I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the future.

WOMEN'S TENNIS 2007 CHAMPIONS

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, today I congratulate the Georgia Tech women's tennis team for winning the 2007 Women's NCAA Tennis Championship in Athens, GA.

The Georgia Tech women's tennis program celebrated its first NCAA title on May 22, 2007, with a 4-2 win over UCLA. The Yellow Jackets' win over UCLA marked its 21st straight match win, and they finished the season at 29-4.

I congratulate team members Amanda Craddock, Kristen Fowler, Whitney McCray, Amanda McDowell, Kirsti Miller, Tarryn Rudman, Alison Silverio, and Christy Striplin for their hard work and achievement. Additionally, I congratulate Alison Silverio on being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. I further extend my thanks to the players' families and fans for continually supporting these outstanding young women throughout a long but

exciting tennis season. The team's success, undoubtedly, would not have been possible without the leadership of head coach Bryan Shelton, assistant coach Mariel Verban, and volunteer assistant coach Robin Stephenson.

Congratulations again to all of these young women for their accomplishment.●

MEN'S TENNIS 2007 CHAMPIONS

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I wish to congratulate the men's tennis team from my alma mater, the University of Georgia, for winning the 2007 NCAA Men's Tennis Championship in Athens, GA.

The Bulldogs defeated the University of Illinois 4 to 0 in the final round of play to capture their fifth men's NCAA national championship in front of a sold out crowd in Athens, leading to the school's 24th national title overall. The team entered the season ranked No. 1 in the country, and completed the season with a perfect 32 to 0 record, making them only the fifth men's tennis team in history to go undefeated.

As an alumnus of this great university, I am extremely proud and would like to congratulate team members Brad Benedict, Luis Flores, Travis Helgeson, Alex Hill, Jamie Hunt, Chris Motes, Nate Schnugg, Joshua Varela, Christian Vitulli, and Tri-Captains Ricardo Gonzalez, John Isner, and Matic Omerzel for their hard work and accomplishments. Additionally, I would like to congratulate Matic Omerzel on being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Undoubtedly, the team's successes would not have been possible without the guidance and encouragement from legendary head coach Manuel Diaz, assistant coach Will Glenn and graduate assistant athletic trainer Michael Neumann. This title is the third for the university under Coach Diaz, making him the only active coach with multiple NCAA championships.

Again, congratulations to the Georgia Bulldogs for their achievement.●

HONORING NORM MALENG

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, today I celebrate the life and service of Norm Maleng, a deeply respected leader in my home State of Washington who served as King County Prosecutor since 1978.

Seattle, King County, and in fact the entire Pacific Northwest, lost one of our finest statesmen ever with his passing. Norm was known by everyone for his fairness and honesty. He was a thoughtful leader who helped guide our community through difficult times. Over the years, our community was rattled by the Wah Mee Massacre, the murder of the Goldmark family, and the Green River Cases. We all breathed easier knowing that Norm Maleng would handle the cases and that justice would be served.

To me, Norm Maleng was always the King County prosecutor. Norm held the

position so long, and did his job so well, that it is hard for me to remember anyone else who held the job before him.

For all of us in public office, Norm was an icon. For me, despite our party differences, he was always a voice of reason and even-handedness. For everyone in King County, we knew that whatever issue came before him, he would handle it with integrity.

As an elected official, Norm Maleng was the best role model for all of us. He treated everyone equally and fairly. He approached every case and every challenge with wisdom and dignity. His voice will be missed. For me, he will always be the King County prosecutor.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:45 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Chiappardi, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2316. An act to provide more rigorous requirements with respect to disclosure and enforcement of lobbying laws and regulations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2317. An act to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require registered lobbyists to file quarterly reports on contributions bundled for certain recipients, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 14. Joint resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales no longer holds the confidence of the Senate and of the American people.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following measure was ordered held at the desk by unanimous consent:

S. 1532. An act to extend tax relief to the residents and businesses of an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and

Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA-1699-DR) by reason of severe storms and tornados beginning on May 4, 2007, and determined by the President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such Act.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2316. An act to provide more rigorous requirements with respect to disclosure and enforcement of lobbying laws and regulations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2317. An act to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require registered lobbyists to file quarterly reports on contributions bundled for certain recipients, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1530. A bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to protect consumers from inadequate disclosures and certain abusive practices in rent-to-own transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 1531. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives and extend existing incentives for the production and use of renewable energy resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 1532. A bill to extend tax relief to the residents and businesses of an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA-1699-DR) by reason of severe storms and tornados beginning on May 4, 2007, and determined by the President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such Act; ordered held at the desk.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1533. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain coins to be acquired by individual retirement accounts and other individually directed pension plan accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. BAYH):

S. 1534. A bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its human rights record and to support a transition to democracy in Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1535. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Foreign Trade Zones Act to simplify the tax and eliminate the drawback fee on certain distilled spirits used in nonbeverage products manufactured in a United States foreign trade zone for domestic use and export; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1536. A bill for the relief of Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 1537. A bill to authorize the transfer of certain funds from the Senate Gift Shop Revolving Fund to the Senate Employee Child Care Center; considered and passed.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S.J. Res. 15. A joint resolution to revise United States policy on Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KERRY:

S. Con. Res. 34. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 394

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 394, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 450

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 573

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 573, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax

basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

S. 932

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate, and less costly.

S. 1224

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1224, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1337

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1337, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for equal coverage of mental health services under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

S. 1338

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1338, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to ensure that new mothers and their families are educated about postpartum depression, screened for symptoms, and provided with essential services, and to increase research at the National Institutes of Health on postpartum depression.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1428, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure access to durable medical equipment under the Medicare program.

S. 1492

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1492, a bill to improve the quality of federal and state data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1495, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the application of the tonnage tax on vessels operating in the dual United States domestic and foreign trades, and for other purposes.

S. 1502

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1502, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States and tribal governments.

S. 1518

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 203, a resolution calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to use its unique influence and economic leverage to stop genocide and violence in Darfur, Sudan.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 1531. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives and extend existing incentives for the production and use of renewable energy resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1531

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES, TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Clean Renewable Energy and Economic Development Incentives Act of 2007”.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references, table of contents.

TITLE I—TAX INCENTIVES FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EXPLORATION

- Sec. 101. Extension of renewable electricity production credit.
- Sec. 102. Extension and modification of clean renewable energy bond credit.
- Sec. 103. Water conservation, reuse and efficiency bonds.
- Sec. 104. Credit for geothermal exploration expenditures.
- Sec. 105. Credit for wind energy systems.
- Sec. 106. Extension and modification of new energy efficient home credit.
- Sec. 107. Investment tax credit for advanced battery production.
- Sec. 108. Qualified renewable school energy bonds.
- Sec. 109. Treatment of bonds issued to finance renewable energy resource facilities.

TITLE II—INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT WITH RESPECT TO SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY AND MANUFACTURING

Subtitle A—Solar Energy Property

- Sec. 201. Energy credit with respect to solar energy property.
- Sec. 202. Repeal of exclusion for solar and geothermal public utility property under energy credit.
- Sec. 203. Permanent extension and modification of credit for residential energy efficient property.
- Sec. 204. 3-year accelerated depreciation period for solar energy property.

Subtitle B—Promotion of Solar Manufacturing in the United States

- Sec. 211. Solar manufacturing credit.

TITLE I—TAX INCENTIVES FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EXPLORATION

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (9) of section 45(d) (relating to qualified facilities) are amended by

striking “January 1, 2009” each place it appears and inserting “January 1, 2019”.

(b) DEEMED PLACED-IN-SERVICE DATE FOR RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY FACILITIES.—Section 45(e) (relating to definitions and special rules) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) DEEMED PLACED-IN-SERVICE DATE FOR CERTAIN FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any facility described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4) (respect to geothermal energy), (5), (6), (7), or (9), for purposes of such paragraph, such facility shall be treated as being placed in service before January 1, 2019, if such facility is under construction before such date and is producing and selling electricity within 2 years after such date.

“(B) PERIOD OF CREDIT.—If a facility is treated as placed in service pursuant to subparagraph (A), the 10-year period referred to in subsection (a) shall be treated as beginning on January 1, 2019.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY BOND CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection 54(m) (relating to termination) is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2018”.

(b) ANNUAL VOLUME CAP FOR BONDS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—Paragraph (1) of subsection 54(f) (relating to national limitation) is amended to read as follows:

“NATIONAL LIMITATION.—

“(A) INITIAL NATIONAL LIMITATION.—With respect to bonds issued after December 31, 2005, and before January 1, 2009, there is a national clean renewable energy bond limitation of \$1,200,000,000.

“(B) ANNUAL NATIONAL LIMITATION.—With respect to bonds issued after December 31, 2008, and before January 1, 2019, there is a national clean renewable energy bond limitation for each calendar year of \$1,000,000,000.”.

(c) ALLOCATION BY SECRETARY.—Paragraph (2) of subsection 54(f) (relating to allocation by Secretary) is amended by striking “, except that the Secretary” and inserting “, except that, in the case of bonds issued under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary”.

(d) PUBLICITY REGARDING ALLOCATION OF CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY BONDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 54 is amended by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (n) and by inserting after subsection (1) the following new subsection:

“(m) PUBLICITY REGARDING ALLOCATION OF CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY BONDS.—The Secretary shall prepare a report not later than 1 year after each allocation under subsection (f) to Congress, and make such report publicly available, which with respect to such allocation identifies the name of each applicant for such allocation, the name of the borrower (if other than the applicant), the type and location of the project that is the subject of such application, and the amount of the allocation under subsection (f) for such project in the event the project receives such an allocation.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to applications for allocations made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as otherwise provided, the amendments made by this section shall apply to bonds issued after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 103. WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE AND EFFICIENCY BONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart H of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to credits against tax) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 54A. CREDIT TO HOLDERS OF WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE AND EFFICIENCY BONDS.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—If a taxpayer holds a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond on 1 or more credit allowance dates of the bond occurring during any taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to the sum of the credits determined under subsection (b) with respect to such dates.

“(b) AMOUNT OF CREDIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the credit determined under this subsection with respect to any credit allowance date for a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond is 25 percent of the annual credit determined with respect to such bond.

“(2) ANNUAL CREDIT.—The annual credit determined with respect to any water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond is the product of—

“(A) the credit rate determined by the Secretary under paragraph (3) for the day on which such bond was sold, multiplied by

“(B) the outstanding face amount of the bond.

“(3) DETERMINATION.—For purposes of paragraph (2), with respect to any water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond, the Secretary shall determine daily or cause to be determined daily a credit rate which shall apply to the first day on which there is a binding, written contract for the sale or exchange of the bond. The credit rate for any day is the credit rate which the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee estimates will permit the issuance of water conservation, reuse and efficiency bonds with a specified maturity or redemption date without discount and without interest cost to the qualified issuer.

“(4) CREDIT ALLOWANCE DATE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘credit allowance date’ means—

“(A) March 15,

“(B) June 15,

“(C) September 15, and

“(D) December 15.

Such term also includes the last day on which the bond is outstanding.

“(5) SPECIAL RULE FOR ISSUANCE AND REDEMPTION.—In the case of a bond which is issued during the 3-month period ending on a credit allowance date, the amount of the credit determined under this subsection with respect to such credit allowance date shall be a ratable portion of the credit otherwise determined based on the portion of the 3-month period during which the bond is outstanding. A similar rule shall apply when the bond is redeemed or matures.

“(c) LIMITATION BASED ON AMOUNT OF TAX.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) for any taxable year shall not exceed the excess of—

“(1) the sum of the regular tax liability (as defined in section 26(b)) plus the tax imposed by section 55, over,

“(2) the sum of the credits allowable under this part (other than subpart C, section 1400N(1), and this section).

“(d) WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE AND EFFICIENCY BOND.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond’ means any bond issued as part of an issue if—

“(A) the bond is issued by a qualified issuer pursuant to an allocation by the Secretary to such issuer of a portion of the national water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond limitation under subsection (f)(2),

“(B) 95 percent or more of the proceeds of such issue are to be used for capital expenditures incurred by qualified borrowers for 1 or more qualified projects,

“(C) the qualified issuer designates such bond for purposes of this section and the bond is in registered form, and

“(D) the issue meets the requirements of subsection (h).

“(2) QUALIFIED PROJECT; SPECIAL USE RULES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified project’ means any rural water supply project (as defined in section 102(9) of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006), owned by a qualified borrower, and which may include preparation and implementation of water conservation plans, development and deployment of water efficient products and processes, and xeriscaping projects consistent with that section.

“(B) REFINANCING RULES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), a qualified project may be refinanced with proceeds of a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond only if the indebtedness being refinanced (including any obligation directly or indirectly refinanced by such indebtedness) was originally incurred by a qualified borrower after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(C) REIMBURSEMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond may be issued to reimburse a qualified borrower for amounts paid after the date of the enactment of this section with respect to a qualified project, but only if—

“(i) prior to the payment of the original expenditure, the qualified borrower declared its intent to reimburse such expenditure with the proceeds of a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond,

“(ii) not later than 60 days after payment of the original expenditure, the qualified issuer adopts an official intent to reimburse the original expenditure with such proceeds, and

“(iii) the reimbursement is made not later than 18 months after the date the original expenditure is paid.

“(D) TREATMENT OF CHANGES IN USE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B), the proceeds of an issue shall not be treated as used for a qualified project to the extent that a qualified borrower or qualified issuer takes any action within its control which causes such proceeds not to be used for a qualified project. The Secretary shall prescribe regulations specifying remedial actions that may be taken (including conditions to taking such remedial actions) to prevent an action described in the preceding sentence from causing a bond to fail to be a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond.

“(e) MATURITY LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) DURATION OF TERM.—A bond shall not be treated as a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond if the maturity of such bond exceeds the maximum term determined by the Secretary under paragraph (2) with respect to such bond.

“(2) MAXIMUM TERM.—During each calendar month, the Secretary shall determine the maximum term permitted under this paragraph for bonds issued during the following calendar month. Such maximum term shall be the term which the Secretary estimates will result in the present value of the obligation to repay the principal on the bond being equal to 50 percent of the face amount of such bond. Such present value shall be determined without regard to the requirements of subsection (1)(6) and using as a discount rate the average annual interest rate of tax-exempt obligations having a term of 10 years or more which are issued during the month. If the term as so determined is not a multiple of a whole year, such term shall be rounded to the next highest whole year.

“(f) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF BONDS DESIGNATED.—

“(1) NATIONAL LIMITATION.—There is a national water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond limitation of \$500,000,000 for each of the 10 calendar years beginning after the date of enactment of this section.

“(2) ALLOCATION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall allocate the amount described in paragraph (1) among qualified projects in such manner as the Secretary determines appropriate, except that the Secretary shall allocate the bond limitation for the financing of qualified projects in as geographically diverse a manner as practicable.

“(g) CREDIT INCLUDED IN GROSS INCOME.—Gross income includes the amount of the credit allowed to the taxpayer under this section (determined without regard to subsection (c)), and the amount so included shall be treated as interest income.

“(h) SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO EXPENDITURES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An issue shall be treated as meeting the requirements of this subsection if, as of the date of issuance, the qualified issuer reasonably expects—

“(A) at least 95 percent of the proceeds of such issue are to be spent for 1 or more qualified projects within the 5-year period beginning on the date of issuance of the water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond,

“(B) a binding commitment with a 3rd party to spend at least 10 percent of the proceeds of such issue will be incurred within the 6-month period beginning on the date of issuance of the water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond or, in the case of a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond the proceeds of which are to be loaned to 2 or more qualified borrowers, such binding commitment will be incurred within the 6-month period beginning on the date of the loan of such proceeds to a qualified borrower, and

“(C) such projects will be completed with due diligence and the proceeds of such issue will be spent with due diligence.

“(2) EXTENSION OF PERIOD.—Upon submission of a request prior to the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary may extend such period if the qualified issuer establishes that the failure to satisfy the 5-year requirement is due to reasonable cause and the related projects will continue to proceed with due diligence.

“(3) FAILURE TO SPEND REQUIRED AMOUNT OF BOND PROCEEDS WITHIN 5 YEARS.—To the extent that less than 95 percent of the proceeds of such issue are expended by the close of the 5-year period beginning on the date of issuance (or if an extension has been obtained under paragraph (2), by the close of the extended period), the qualified issuer shall redeem all of the nonqualified bonds within 90 days after the end of such period. For purposes of this paragraph, the amount of the nonqualified bonds required to be redeemed shall be determined in the same manner as under section 142.

“(i) SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO ARBITRAGE.—A bond which is part of an issue shall not be treated as a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond unless, with respect to the issue of which the bond is a part, the qualified issuer satisfies the arbitrage requirements of section 148 with respect to proceeds of the issue.

“(j) MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT; QUALIFIED WATER SYSTEMS TAX CREDIT BOND LENDER; GOVERNMENTAL BODY; QUALIFIED BORROWER.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT.—The term ‘municipal water district’ shall mean a non-profit private or public entity operated for the purpose of implementing rural water supply projects (as defined in section 102(9) of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006).

“(2) QUALIFIED WATER SYSTEMS BOND LENDER.—The term ‘qualified water systems bond

lender’ means a lender which is a municipal water district or a public water system which is owned by a governmental body, and shall include any affiliated entity which is controlled by such lender.

“(3) GOVERNMENTAL BODY.—The term ‘governmental body’ means any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, Indian tribal government, and any political subdivision thereof.

“(4) QUALIFIED ISSUER.—The term ‘qualified issuer’ means—

“(A) a qualified water systems bond lender,

“(B) a municipal water district, or

“(C) a governmental body.

“(5) QUALIFIED BORROWER.—The term ‘qualified borrower’ means—

“(A) a municipal water district, or

“(B) a governmental body.

“(k) SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO POOL BONDS.—No portion of a pooled financing bond may be allocable to any loan unless the borrower has entered into a written loan commitment for such portion prior to the issue date of such issue.

“(l) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) BOND.—The term ‘bond’ includes any obligation.

“(2) POOLED FINANCING BOND.—The term ‘pooled financing bond’ shall have the meaning given such term by section 149(f)(4)(A).

“(3) PARTNERSHIP; S CORPORATION; AND OTHER PASS-THRU ENTITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in the case of a partnership, trusts corporation, or other pass-thru entity, rules similar to the rules of section 41(g) shall apply with respect to the credit allowable under subsection (a).

“(B) NO BASIS ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of a bond held by a partnership or and corporation, rules similar to the rules under section 1397E(i) shall apply.

“(4) BONDS HELD BY REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANIES.—If any water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond is held by a regulated investment company, the credit determined under subsection (a) shall be allowed to shareholders of such company under procedures prescribed by the Secretary.

“(5) RATABLE PRINCIPAL AMORTIZATION REQUIRED.—A bond shall not be treated as a water conservation, reuse and efficiency bond unless it is part of an issue which provides for an equal amount of principal to be paid by the qualified issuer during each calendar year that the issue is outstanding.

“(6) REPORTING.—Issuers of water conservation, reuse and efficiency bonds shall submit reports similar to the reports required under section 149(e).

“(m) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply with respect to any bond issued after the tenth calendar year beginning after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) REPORTING.—Subsection (d) of section 6049 (relating to returns regarding payments of interest) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) REPORTING OF CREDIT ON WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE AND EFFICIENCY BONDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘interest’ includes amounts includible in gross income under section 54A(g) and such amounts shall be treated as paid on the credit allowance date (as defined in section 54A(b)(4)).

“(B) REPORTING TO CORPORATIONS, ETC.—Except as otherwise provided in regulations, in the case of any interest described in subparagraph (A), subsection (b)(4) shall be applied without regard to subparagraphs (A), (H), (I), (J), (K), and (L)(i) of such subsection.

“(C) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may prescribe such regulations as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the

purposes of this paragraph, including regulations which require more frequent or more detailed reporting.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart H of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

Sec. 54A. Credit to holders of water conservation, reuse and efficiency bonds.

(d) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall issue regulations required under section 54A (as added by this section) not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REPORT ON USE OF BOND AUTHORITY.—On April 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Treasury shall submit a report to Congress including the number of applications for bonding authority received, granted and identifying the purposes and expected effects of projects supported by the bonding authority in the previous calendar year.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to bonds issued after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 104. CREDIT FOR GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to business related credits) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 450. CREDIT FOR GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 38, the geothermal exploration expenditures credit for any taxable year is an amount equal to 10 percent of the qualifying geothermal exploration expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer during such taxable year.

“(b) QUALIFYING GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualifying geothermal exploration expenditures’ means expenditures for drilling exploratory wells for geothermal deposits (as defined by section 613(e)(2)).

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Such term shall not include expenditures for any equipment used to produce, distribute, or use energy derived from a geothermal deposit (as so defined) for which a credit is allowable under section 46 by reason of section 48.

“(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) BASIS REDUCTION.—For purposes of this subtitle, the basis of any property for which a credit is allowed under this section shall be reduced by the amount of the credit so allowed.

“(2) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction or credit (other than under section 45) shall be allowed under this subtitle with respect to any expenditures for which a credit is allowed under this section.”.

(b) CREDIT MADE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—Section 38(b) (relating to current year business credit) is amended by striking “plus” at the end of paragraph (30), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (31) and inserting “, plus”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(32) the geothermal exploration expenditures credit determined under section 450(a).”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 45N the following new item:

“Sec. 45O. Credit for geothermal exploration expenditures.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenditures made in taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 105. CREDIT FOR WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS.

(a) RESIDENTIAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 25D(a) is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) 30 percent of the qualified small wind energy property expenditures made by the taxpayer during such year.”.

(2) LIMITATION.—Section 25D(b)(1) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) \$500 with respect to each half kilowatt of capacity (not to exceed \$5,000) of qualifying wind turbines for which qualified small wind energy property expenditures are made.”.

(3) QUALIFIED SMALL WIND ENERGY PROPERTY EXPENDITURES.—Section 25D(d) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) QUALIFIED SMALL WIND ENERGY PROPERTY EXPENDITURE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified wind energy property expenditure’ means an expenditure for property which uses a qualifying wind turbine to generate electricity for use in connection with a dwelling unit located in the United States and used as a residence by the taxpayer.

“(B) QUALIFYING WIND TURBINE.—The term ‘qualifying wind turbine’ means a wind turbine of 100 kilowatts of rated capacity or less which meets the latest performance rating standards published by the American Wind Energy Association and which is used to generate electricity and carries at least a 5-year limited warranty covering defects in design, material, or workmanship, and, for property that is not installed by the taxpayer, at least a 5-year limited warranty covering defects in installation.”.

(b) BUSINESS.—Section 48(a)(3)(A) (defining energy property) is amended by striking “or” at the end of clause (iii), by adding “or” at the end of clause (iv), and by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clause:

“(v) qualifying wind turbine (as defined in section 25D(d)(B)).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

SEC. 106. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (g) of section 45L (relating to termination) is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2013”.

(b) INCREASE OF CREDIT.—Paragraph (2) of subsection 45L(a) (relating to applicable amount) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable amount is an amount equal to, in the case of a dwelling unit described in—

“(A) subsection (c)(1), \$4,000,

“(B) subsection (c)(2), \$2,000, and

“(C) subsection (c)(3), \$1,000.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to qualified new energy efficient homes acquired after the date of the enactment of this Act, in taxable years ending after such date.

SEC. 107. INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT FOR ADVANCED BATTERY PRODUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48(a)(3)(A) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of clause (iii),

(2) by inserting “or” at the end of clause (iv), and

(3) by inserting after clause (iv) the following new clause:

“(v) equipment used to produce at least 75 percent of any advanced battery and related power electronics intended for use in—

“(I) any qualified electric vehicle (as defined in section 30(c)(1)(A)) or new qualified hybrid motor vehicle (as defined in section 30B(d)(3)(A), without regard to clauses (v) and (vi) thereof), or

“(II) any grid-enabled or distributed residential or small commercial application.”.

(b) RATE OF ENERGY PERCENTAGE.—Section 48(a)(2)(A) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of clause (i)(III),

(2) by striking “clause (i)” in clause (ii) and inserting “clause (i) or clause (ii)”,

(3) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii), and

(4) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clause:

“(ii) 20 percent in the case of energy property described in paragraph (3)(A)(v), and”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 108. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE SCHOOL ENERGY BONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter U of chapter 1 (relating to incentives for education zones) is amended by redesignating section 1397F as section 1397G and by adding at the end of part IV of such subchapter the following new section:

“SEC. 1397F. QUALIFIED RENEWABLE SCHOOL ENERGY BONDS.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—If a taxpayer holds a qualified renewable school energy bond on 1 or more credit allowance dates of the bond occurring during any taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to the sum of the credits determined under subsection (b) with respect to such dates.

“(b) AMOUNT OF CREDIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the credit determined under this subsection with respect to any credit allowance date for a qualified renewable school energy bond is 25 percent of the annual credit determined with respect to such bond.

“(2) ANNUAL CREDIT.—The annual credit determined with respect to any qualified renewable school energy bond is the product of—

“(A) the credit rate determined by the Secretary under paragraph (3) for the day on which such bond was sold, multiplied by

“(B) the outstanding face amount of the bond.

“(3) DETERMINATION.—For purposes of paragraph (2), with respect to any qualified renewable school energy bond, the Secretary shall determine daily or cause to be determined daily a credit rate which shall apply to the first day on which there is a binding, written contract for the sale or exchange of the bond. The credit rate for any day is the credit rate which the Secretary or the Secretary’s designee estimates will permit the issuance of qualified renewable school energy bonds with a specified maturity or redemption date without discount and without interest cost to the qualified issuer.

“(4) CREDIT ALLOWANCE DATE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘credit allowance date’ means—

“(A) March 15,

“(B) June 15,

“(C) September 15, and

“(D) December 15.

Such term also includes the last day on which the bond is outstanding.

“(5) SPECIAL RULE FOR ISSUANCE AND REDEMPTION.—In the case of a bond which is issued during the 3-month period ending on a

credit allowance date, the amount of the credit determined under this subsection with respect to such credit allowance date shall be a ratable portion of the credit otherwise determined based on the portion of the 3-month period during which the bond is outstanding. A similar rule shall apply when the bond is redeemed or matures.

“(C) LIMITATION BASED ON AMOUNT OF TAX.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) for any taxable year shall not exceed the excess of—

“(1) the sum of the regular tax liability (as defined in section 26(b)) plus the tax imposed by section 55, over

“(2) the sum of the credits allowable under part IV of subchapter A (other than subpart C thereof, relating to refundable credits, subpart H thereof, section 1400N(1), and this section).

“(d) QUALIFIED RENEWABLE SCHOOL ENERGY BOND.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘renewable school energy bond’ means any bond issued as part of an issue if—

“(A) 95 percent or more of the proceeds of such issue are to be used for a qualified purpose with respect to a qualified school operated by an eligible local education agency,

“(B) the bond is issued by a State or local government of an eligible State within the jurisdiction of which such school is located,

“(C) the issuer—

“(i) designates such bond for purposes of this section, and

“(ii) certifies that it has the written approval of the eligible local education agency for such bond issuance, and

“(D) the term of each bond which is part of such issue is 20 years.

“(2) QUALIFIED SCHOOL.—The term ‘qualified school’ means any public school or public school system administrative building which is owned by or operated by an eligible local education agency.

“(3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY.—The term ‘eligible local education agency’ means any local educational agency as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“(4) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ‘eligible State’ means, with respect to any calendar year, any State described in one of the following:

“(A) The 5 States within Region 4 of the United States Census with the greatest percentage population growth change between 2000 and 2006 as determined under the Cumulative Estimates of Population Change for the United States and States, and for Puerto Rico—April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006, by the Bureau of the Census.

“(B) The State with a total percentage population growth change between 2000 and 2006 greater than 4.5 percent but less than 5.0 percent and a total population 19 years of age and younger which is greater than 200,000 but less than 250,000 as determined under such Cumulative Estimates and the 2005 American Community Survey by the Bureau of the Census.

“(5) QUALIFIED PURPOSE.—The term ‘qualified purpose’ means, with respect to any qualified school, the purchase and installation of renewable energy products.

“(e) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF BONDS DESIGNATED.—

“(1) NATIONAL LIMITATION.—There is a national renewable school energy bond limitation for each calendar year. Such limitation is \$50,000,000 for 2008, \$100,000,000 for 2009, \$150,000,000 for 2010, and, except as provided in paragraph (4), zero thereafter.

“(2) ALLOCATION OF LIMITATION.—The national renewable school energy bond limitation for a calendar year shall be allocated by the Secretary—

“(A) among the eligible States described in subsection (d)(4)(A), 30 percent to the State with the greatest percentage population growth, 20 percent to each of second and third ranked States, and 10 percent to each of the fourth and fifth ranked States, and

“(B) to the State described in subsection (d)(4)(B), 10 percent.

The limitation amount allocated to an eligible State under the preceding sentence shall be allocated by the State education agency to qualified schools within such State.

“(3) DESIGNATION SUBJECT TO LIMITATION AMOUNT.—The maximum aggregate face amount of bonds issued during any calendar year which may be designated under subsection (d)(1) with respect to any qualified school shall not exceed the limitation amount allocated to such school under paragraph (2) for such calendar year.

“(4) CARRYOVER OF UNUSED LIMITATION.—If for any calendar year—

“(A) the limitation amount for any eligible State, exceeds

“(B) the amount of bonds issued during such year which are designated under subsection (d)(1) with respect to qualified schools within such State,

the limitation amount for such State for the following calendar year shall be increased by the amount of such excess. Any carryforward of a limitation amount may be carried only to the first 2 years following the unused limitation year. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a limitation amount shall be treated as used on a first-in first-out basis.

“(f) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) BOND.—The term ‘bond’ includes any obligation.

“(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia and any possession of the United States.

“(g) CREDIT INCLUDED IN GROSS INCOME.—Gross income includes the amount of the credit allowed to the taxpayer under this section (determined without regard to subsection (c)).

“(h) CREDITS MAY BE STRIPPED.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There may be a separation (including at issuance) of the ownership of a qualified renewable school energy bond and the entitlement to the credit under this section with respect to such bond. In case of any such separation, the credit under this section shall be allowed to the person which, on the credit allowance date, holds the instrument evidencing the entitlement to the credit and not to the holder of the bond.

“(2) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—In the case of a separation described in paragraph (1), the rules of section 1286 shall apply to the qualified renewable school energy bond as if it were a stripped bond and to the credit under this section as if it were a stripped coupon.

“(i) CREDIT TREATED AS NONREFUNDABLE BONDHOLDER CREDIT.—For purposes of this title, the credit allowed by this section shall be treated as a credit allowable under subpart H of part IV of subchapter A of this chapter.

“(j) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section, rules similar to the rules under paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 54(l) shall apply.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for part V of such subchapter is amended by redesignating section 1397F as section 1397G and by adding at the end of the table of sections for part IV of such subchapter the following new item:

“Sec. 1397F. Credit for holders of qualified renewable school energy bonds.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to bonds issued after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 109. TREATMENT OF BONDS ISSUED TO FINANCE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 142 (relating to exempt facility bond) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (14),

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (15) and inserting “, or”, and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(16) renewable energy resource facilities.”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 142 is amended by inserting at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITIES.—For purposes of subsection (a)(16)—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘renewable energy resource facility’ means any facility used to produce electric or thermal energy (including a distributed generation facility) from—

“(A) wind energy,

“(B) closed-loop biomass (within the meaning of section 45(c)(2)),

“(C) open-loop biomass (as defined in section 45(c)(3)),

“(D) geothermal energy (as defined in section 45(c)(4)),

“(E) solar energy,

“(F) land fill gas derived from the biodegradation of municipal solid waste (as defined in section 45(c)(6)),

“(G) incremental hydropower production (as determined under section 45(c)(8)(B)), or

“(H) ocean energy.

“(2) OCEAN ENERGY.—The term ‘ocean energy’ includes current, wave, tidal, and thermal energy.”.

(c) COORDINATION WITH SECTION 45.—Section 45(b)(3) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “For purposes of this paragraph, proceeds of an issue used to provide financing for any qualified facility by reason of section 142(a)(16) shall not be taken into account under subparagraph (A)(ii).”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to bonds issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT WITH RESPECT TO SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY AND MANUFACTURING

Subtitle A—Solar Energy Property

SEC. 201. ENERGY CREDIT WITH RESPECT TO SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY.

(a) PERMANENT EXTENSION OF CREDIT FOR SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY.—Paragraphs (2)(A)(i)(II) and (3)(A)(ii) of section 48(a) (relating to the energy credit) are each amended by striking “but only with respect to periods ending before January 1, 2009”.

(b) ENERGY PROPERTY TO INCLUDE EXCESS ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE.—Clause (i) of section 48(a)(3)(A) (relating to energy property) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) equipment which uses solar energy to generate electricity, to heat or cool (or provide hot water for use in) a structure, or to provide solar process heat, or advanced energy storage systems installed as an integrated component of the foregoing, excepting property used to generate energy for purposes of heating a swimming pool.”.

(c) ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS.—

(1) SOLAR ELECTRIC ENERGY PROPERTY CREDIT DETERMINED SOLELY BY KILOWATT CAPACITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 48 (relating to the energy credit) is amended by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph

(5) and by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

“(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR ENERGY CREDIT FOR SOLAR ELECTRIC ENERGY PROPERTY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 46, the energy credit for any taxable year for solar electric energy property described in paragraph (3)(A)(i) which is used to generate electricity and which is placed in service during the taxable year is \$1,500 with respect to each half kilowatt of direct current of installed capacity of such property. Paragraph (2)(A) shall not apply to property to which the preceding sentence applies.

“(B) APPLICATION OF SPECIAL RULES FOR REHABILITATED OR SUBSIDIZED PROPERTY.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (2)(B) and (5) shall apply to property to which this paragraph applies.”.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (a) of section 48 is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “in paragraph (4) and” after “except as provided”, and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A)(i)(II), by striking “described in paragraph (3)(A)(i)” and inserting “which is described in paragraph (3)(A)(i) and to which paragraph (4) does not apply”.

(d) CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.—Section 38(c)(4)(B) (relating to specified credits) is amended by—

(i) striking “and” at the end of clause (i),

(2) striking the period at the end of clause (ii)(II) and inserting “, and”, and

(3) adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) the portion of the investment credit under section 46(2) which is determined under clauses (i) and (ii) of section 48(a)(3)(A).”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to periods after December 31, 2007, in taxable years beginning after such date, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).

SEC. 202. REPEAL OF EXCLUSION FOR SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL PUBLIC UTILITY PROPERTY UNDER ENERGY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section 48(a)(3) is amended by inserting “(other than property described in clause (i) or (iii) of subparagraph (A))” after “any property”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to periods after December 31, 2007, in taxable years beginning after such date, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).

SEC. 203. PERMANENT EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF CREDIT FOR RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENT PROPERTY.

(a) PERMANENT EXTENSION.—Section 25D is amended by striking subsection (g) (relating to termination).

(b) SOLAR ELECTRIC PROPERTY.—Paragraph (1) of section 25D(a) (relating to allowance of credit) is amended by striking “30 percent of”.

(c) MODIFICATION OF MAXIMUM CREDIT.—Paragraph (1) of section 25D(b) (relating to limitations) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) MAXIMUM CREDIT.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) (determined without regard to subsection (c)) for any taxable year shall not exceed—

“(A) \$1,500 with respect to each half kilowatt of direct current of installed capacity of qualified solar electric property for which qualified solar electric property expenditures are made,

“(B) \$2,000 with respect to any qualified solar heating and cooling property expenditures, and

“(C) \$500 with respect to each half kilowatt of capacity of qualified fuel cell property (as defined in section 48(c)(1)) for which qualified fuel cell property expenditures are made.”.

(d) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING PROPERTY EXPENDITURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 25D(d) (relating to definitions) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) QUALIFIED SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING PROPERTY EXPENDITURE.—The term ‘qualified solar heating and cooling property expenditure’ means an expenditure for property to heat or cool (or provide hot water for use in) a dwelling unit located in the United States and used as a residence by the taxpayer if at least half of the energy used by such property for such purpose is derived from the sun. Such term shall not include an expenditure which is a qualified solar electric property expenditure.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 25D (relating to residential energy efficient property) is amended—

(A) by striking “solar water heating” in subsections (a)(2) and (e)(4)(A)(ii) and inserting “solar heating and cooling”, and

(B) by striking the heading for subsection (b)(2) and inserting the following new heading: “(2) CERTIFICATION OF SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING PROPERTY.”.

(e) CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 25D(b) (relating to limitations), as amended by subsection (c), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) CREDIT ALLOWED AGAINST ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.—The credit allowed under subsection (a) for the taxable year shall not exceed the excess of—

“(A) the sum of the regular tax liability (as defined in section 26(b)) plus the tax imposed by section 55, over

“(B) the sum of the credits allowable under subpart A of part IV of subchapter A (other than this section) and section 27 for the taxable year.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Subsection (c) of section 25D (relating to carryforward of unused credit) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) CARRYFORWARD OF UNUSED CREDIT.—If the credit allowable under subsection (a) for any taxable year exceeds the limitation imposed by subsection (b)(3) for such taxable year, such excess shall be carried to the succeeding taxable year and added to the credit allowable under subsection (a) for such succeeding taxable year.”.

(B) Section 23(b)(4)(B) (relating to limitation based on amount of tax) is amended by inserting “and section 25D” after “this section”.

(C) Section 24(b)(3)(B) (relating to limitation based on amount of tax) is amended by striking “sections 23 and 25B” and inserting “sections 23, 25B, and 25D”.

(D) Section 26(a)(1) (relating to limitation based on amount of tax) is amended by striking “and 25B” and inserting “25B, and 25D”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenditures made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 204. 3-YEAR ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION PERIOD FOR SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 168(e)(3) (relating to 3-year property) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of clause (ii),

(2) by striking the period at the end of clause (iii) and inserting a comma, and

(3) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clauses:

“(iv) any property which is described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 48(a)(3)(A) (or

would be so described if the last sentence of such section did not apply to such clause), and

“(v) any property which is described in clause (iv) of section 48(a)(3)(A).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subclause (I) of section 168(e)(3)(B)(vi) (relating to 5-year property) is amended to read as follows:

“(I) would be described in subparagraph (A) of section 48(a)(3) if ‘wind energy’ were substituted for ‘solar energy’ in clause (i) thereof and the last sentence of such section did not apply to such subparagraph.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2007.

Subtitle B—Promotion of Solar Manufacturing in the United States

SEC. 211. SOLAR MANUFACTURING CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to rules for computing investment credit) is amended by inserting after section 48B the following new section:

“SEC. 48C. SOLAR MANUFACTURING CREDIT.

“(a) CREDIT ALLOWED.—For purposes of section 46, the solar manufacturing credit for any taxable year is an amount equal to 30 percent of the qualified investment for such taxable year.

“(b) QUALIFIED INVESTMENT.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The qualified investment for any taxable year is equal to the incremental costs incurred during such taxable year to re-equip, expand, or establish an eligible manufacturing facility—

“(A) to produce polysilicon for use in solar cells, wafers manufactured for solar cells, and solar photovoltaic cells,

“(B) to produce or assemble solar photovoltaic modules,

“(C) to produce or assemble solar thermal panels and solar thermal storage tanks, or

“(D) to produce concentrated solar power equipment.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The qualified investment for any taxable year shall not include—

“(A) assets utilized to produce the materials consumed in the production of solar photovoltaic modules, such as aluminum extrusions, glass, encapsulants, inverters, and mounting hardware, and

“(B) assets utilized to produce the materials consumed in the production of solar thermal panels, such as aluminum extrusions, glass, copper, and mounting hardware.

“(3) CERTAIN QUALIFIED PROGRESS EXPENDITURES MADE APPLICABLE.—Rules similar to the rules of subsections (c)(4) and (d) of section 46 (as in effect on the day before the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990) shall apply for purposes of this section.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURING FACILITY.—The term ‘eligible manufacturing facility’ means any manufacturing facility for which more than 50 percent of the gross receipts for the taxable year are derived from sales of solar equipment.

“(2) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC CELL.—The term ‘solar photovoltaic cell’ means the semiconductor device which converts photons from light into electricity.

“(3) SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULE.—The term ‘solar photovoltaic module’ means an assembly of multiple interconnected solar photovoltaic cells that are sized and packaged for installation and deployment in a specific application.”.

(b) CREDIT TREATED AS PART OF INVESTMENT CREDIT.—Section 46 (relating to amount of credit) is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and

inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) the solar manufacturing credit.”.

(c) CERTAIN NONRECOURSE FINANCING EXCLUDED FROM CREDIT BASE.—Section 49(a)(1)(C) (defining credit base) is amended by striking “and” at the end of clause (iii), by striking the period at the end of clause (iv) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) the basis of any property which is part of the solar manufacturing credit under section 48C.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods after December 31, 2007, in taxable years beginning after such date, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1536. A bill for the relief of Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I offer private immigration relief legislation to provide lawful permanent residence status to Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno and Micaela Lopez Martinez and their daughter, Adilene Martinez; Mexican nationals now living in San Francisco, California.

This family embodies the true American success story and I believe they merit Congress' special consideration for such an extraordinary form of relief as a private bill.

Mr. Martinez came to the United States 20 years ago from Mexico. He started working as a busboy in restaurants in San Francisco. In 1990, he began working as a cook at Palio D'Asti, an award winning Italian restaurant in San Francisco.

According to the people who worked with him, he “never made mistakes, never lost his temper, and never seemed to sweat.”

Over the past 20 years, Jose Martinez has worked his way through the ranks. Today, he is the sous chef at Palio, where he is respected by everyone in the restaurant, from dishwashers to cooks, busboys to waiters, bartenders to managers.

Mr. Martinez has unique skills: he is an excellent chef; he is bilingual; he is a leader in the workplace. He is described as “an exemplary employee” who is not only “good at his job, but is also a great boss to his subordinates.”

He and his wife, Micaela, have made a home in San Francisco. Micaela has been working as a housekeeper. They have three daughters, two of whom are United States citizens. Their oldest child Adilene, 19, is undocumented. Adilene recently graduated from the Immaculate Conception Academy and hopes to attend college.

One of the most compelling reasons for allowing the family to remain in the United States is that they are eligible for a green card. Unfortunately, there is such a backlog for green cards right now that even though he has a work permit, owns a home in San Francisco, works two jobs, and has

been in the United States for 20 years with a clean record, he and his family will be deported.

Mr. Martinez and his family have applied unsuccessfully for legal status several ways:

In 2000, Mr. and Mrs. Martinez filed for political asylum. Their case was denied and a subsequent application for a Cancellation of Removal was also denied because the immigration court judge could not find “requisite hardship” required for this relief.

Ironically, the immigration judge who reviewed their case found that Mr. Martinez's culinary ability was a negative factor, as it indicated that he could find a job in Mexico.

In 2001, his sister, who has legal status, petitioned for Mr. Martinez to get a green card. Unfortunately, because of the current green card backlog, Mr. Martinez has several years to wait before he is eligible for a green card.

Finally, Daniel Scherotter, the executive chef and owner of Palio D'Asti, has petitioned for legal status for Mr. Martinez based on Mr. Martinez's unique skills as a chef. Although Mr. Martinez's work petition was approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, there is a backlog on these visas, and Mr. Martinez is on a waiting list for a green card through this channel, as well.

Mr. and Mrs. Martinez have no other administrative options available to them at this point and if deported, they will face a 5 to 10 year ban from returning to the United States.

The Martinez family has become an important and valued part of their community. They are active members of their church, their children's school, and Comite de Padres Unido, a grassroots immigrant organization in California.

They volunteer extensively, advocating for safe new parks in the community for the children, volunteering at their children's school, and working on a voter registration campaign, even though they are unable to vote themselves.

In fact, I have received 46 letters of support from teachers, church members, and members of their community who attest to their honesty, responsibility, and long-standing commitment to their community. Their supporters include San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom; former Mayor Willie Brown; President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Aaron Peskin; and the Director of Immigration Policy at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Mark Silverman.

This family has truly embraced the American dream. I believe their continued presence in our country would do so much to enhance the values we hold dear. Enactment of the legislation I have introduced today will enable the Martinez family to continue to make significant contributions to their community as well as the United States.

I ask my colleagues to support this private bill.

I ask unanimous consent that my statement, the letters of community support, and the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1536

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez shall each be deemed to have been lawfully admitted to, and remained in, the United States, and shall be eligible for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) upon filing an application for such adjustment of status.

(b) APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the application for adjustment of status is filed with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBERS.—Upon the granting of permanent resident status to Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 3, during the current or subsequent fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of the birth of Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno, Micaela Lopez Martinez, and Adilene Martinez under section 202(e) or 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e), 1153(a)), as applicable.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO,
April 20, 2007.

Hon. DIANE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I write to express my unequivocal support for your efforts to assist Jose Alberto Martinez and his family regarding immigration challenges that they currently face.

As you know, Mr. Martinez is a key employee of the highly regarded Palio d'Asti Restaurant here in San Francisco. His current occupation as a Sous Chef at Palio d'Asti is part of a career that spans 20 years in the San Francisco restaurant industry. Mr. Martinez is a San Francisco homeowner with a wife and three children. By all accounts he is a model resident and contributing community member. He exemplifies the hardworking immigrant communities that have made San Francisco what it is over the last 150-plus years.

I understand that despite Mr. Martinez's sponsorship through the PERM program, and his history as a law-abiding taxpayer in our community, he and his wife face a deportation order. I believe that this order not only threatens the future of his family, but negatively impacts our local restaurant industry and Mexican-American community. I therefore thank you for your efforts to what you can to help allow Mr. Martinez and his family to remain in San Francisco, working hard to achieve the American dream while contributing to our community.

Should you have any questions about this letter, please contact my Director of Government Affairs, Wade Crowfoot at 415-554-6640.

Sincerely,

GAVIN NEWSOM.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA,
April 19, 2007.

Hon. DIANE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I write to you to voice my support for Jose Alberto Martinez, Sous Chef of the well established Palio d'Asti Restaurant. Like thousands of San Franciscans and visitors to San Francisco, I have eaten food he has prepared for the last 20 years. Jose has supported the top Chefs, and fed hundreds of thousands of diners, in San Francisco primarily at Stars and Palio d'Asti (though also at the Orchard and Omni hotels) and has maintained a spotless record. Jose runs the kitchen with an even-hand and touch of class. Jose is also a San Francisco homeowner with his wife and their three children.

Jose's boss, Daniel Scherotter, Palio's longtime chef and Gianni Fassio, the former owner of Palio, have alerted me that this pillar of the restaurant community is facing an imminent deportation order.

Fassio and Scherotter worked with Jose through the PERM Program to get him a work visa, proving that Jose was an integral, irreplaceable part of their business. I would maintain that Jose is exactly the kind of hardworking immigrant that has always been the bedrock of San Francisco and its restaurant community. Please, I urge you to do anything in your power to help keep Jose and his family together here in San Francisco. Please intervene on Jose's behalf in order to let him stay in line for a green card and not be deported.

Sincerely,

WILLIE L. BROWN, Jr.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO,
San Francisco, April 18, 2007.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am writing in support of Jose Alberto Martinez, the longtime Sous Chef of Palio d'Asti Restaurant, one of the largest and best known restaurants in my district. Palio has been an exemplary restaurant, both under previous owner Gianni Fassio, and under the chef who eventually bought him out, Daniel Scherotter. Jose makes it possible for Mr. Scherotter to represent his industry in his position as Vice President of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association.

Mr. Scherotter has brought it to my attention that, despite Fassio's and Scherotter's successful sponsorship for a work permit under the PERM program, and despite a clean record as a lawabiding taxpayer, home owner and family man, Mr. Martinez and his wife are facing a deportation order. I respectfully urge you to do anything possible to help Mr. Martinez stay with his three children, contribute to the economy and the restaurant industry, and continue to live the American Dream.

Sincerely,

AARON PESKIN,
President.

APRIL 19, 2007.

Hon. DIANE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: Jose Alberto Martinez has worked for me at Palio d'Asti Restaurant as my Sous Chef for over six years. He is my right hand in every way. He always comes to work on time and ready to enjoy getting his job done well. I need only teach him something once, and he gets it, never making the same mistake twice. None of this comes as a surprise, to me though, be-

cause I worked with him as a cook here at Palio 13 years ago. When I needed a Sous Chef to run the kitchen at night, I made one phone call, to Jose.

Jose started working as a cook at Palio in 1990, when it opened. I came along as a cook climbing up the ladder after working in Italy in the fall of 1994, and stayed for a year and a half. Jose and his brother Mauricio were the pillars of dinner service. The nights I got to work with both of them were lessons in how professional cooks cook. Jose never made mistakes, never lost his temper, and never seemed to sweat or really even move. I thought I knew everything and talked about it, but I could never reach the pure, silent efficiency of motion that Jose embodied. At night, the Sous Chef never even had to come into the kitchen, because he had the dream team in charge. About a year after I started, the owner, Gianni Fassio, had bypass surgery, and decided to close dinner service. Jose and I had to leave to move on and up, elsewhere.

In the late summer of 1999, I was working at the Kimpton Group as an Executive Chef and General Manager at Puccini and Pinetti, when Mr. Fassio approached me about coming back to Palio, this time as the Executive Chef. He was having management problems, which translate into cost and quality problems. The hardest part about running a restaurant or any business for that matter, is finding good management. I had to fire 3 sous chefs upon arrival for blatant incompetence, dishonesty, sexual harassment, bad cooking, alcohol abuse and any number of other sins.

I tried a couple of classically trained American Sous Chefs with extensive education and experience, but one thing after another would pop up—alcoholism, lack of common sense, inability to handle pressure or criticism, big egos, inability to communicate with, train or maintain staff, and I can go on. I thought about what I needed: a great cook, a leader, someone who spoke English and Spanish, someone who could learn and take constructive criticism, someone who would represent what I wanted on the plate and in person when I was elsewhere. So I called Jose.

It took time, Jose was working for a very well respected French Chef as a cook. I offered him more money and a management title, but since dinner had closed on him before, he didn't know if the restaurant would be around for long. He didn't want to bite off more than he could chew, as he was very comfortable slaving away cooking and had never been truly responsible before. Jose is all about stability, which has made my life a dream since he finally started.

I taught Jose how to order all of the meat, poultry, and fish and produce every night, taking into account the reservations, historical sales figures, catering, parties, prices and seasonality. He maintains a tight ship with single digit turnover on his shift. His staff worships him and his food is flawless. His ordering is precise, and he has learned to think the way I think. Jose dwells in the details and makes sure that everything is done right. When he started, he told me that no matter what, if he did something wrong, that he wanted me to tell him rather than be upset. That being said, the things I have ever needed to correct him on cumulatively amount to a hill of beans. He cooks a station or two at a time, manages the other employees, the inventory and the ordering while still supporting a family, another job and a sense of humor. He has made it possible for me to buy out Gianni Fassio and start out in business for myself.

My goal is to make Jose into my chef, as I use this restaurant as a mother ship to open other restaurants in the city. He's

helped me bring his brother Mauricio, the other half of the dynamic duo back to Palio, and with them there, I can feel comfortable growing our business. I need Jose and this restaurant needs Jose. I want to take him to Italy so he can see how it is over there, and so his vision is not just mine, but also authentic in its own right. When he gets enough money together to open his own restaurant, I will invest in it without hesitation because sure things are hard investments to come by and Jose Alberto Martinez is a sure thing.

I am willing to do anything to keep Jose here and happy. He is the best possible person to run my business at night, and eventually, I believe, all day. He has worked hard and played by the rules since he got here 20 years ago. He is a homeowner in San Francisco and a saint, respected by everyone in the restaurant, from dishwashers to cooks, busboys to waiters, bartenders to managers. He is well on his way to reaching the American dream, and I can't think of anyone who deserves it more. I implore you to appreciate what this man means to me and to Palio.

Please tell me any way that I can help Jose stay here in San Francisco as a part of the Palio d'Asti family.

DANIEL H. SCHEROTTER,
Chef, Owner, Palio
d'Asti and Palio
Paninoteca,
Vice President, Golden
Gate Restaurant As-
sociation.

SAN FRANCISCO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,
San Francisco, CA, April 19, 2007.

SENATOR DIANE FEINSTEIN: I am writing this letter in support of the family of Micaela and Jose Alberto Martinez and their three daughters, Adelina, Jasmine and Karla Martinez.

I've known Micaela and Jose Alberto Martinez and their three sweet and well mannered daughters Adelina, Jasmine and Karla Martinez who have been at different times in our child development program for the past sixteen years. Each daughter has been enrolled in my class. During this time, Micaela and Jose Alberto have aided our program by volunteering in many ways.

They have translated for our Spanish speaking parents during our Center parent meetings. Mr. and Mrs. Martinez have donated gifts toward our center program fundraisers which have helped to make them a great success, raising funds to support class field trips around the Bay area and to purchase additional materials and supplies for the classroom. They have also helped to chaperone these field trips.

Micaela and Jose Alberto Martinez are outstanding parents who are supportive to their family, their community and to our educational system.

Please give all positive consideration to this deserving family.

Respectfully,
CLAREE LASH-HAYNES,
Lead Teacher.

IRISH IMMIGRATION PASTORAL CENTER,
San Francisco, CA, April 18, 2007.
Re Jose Alberto Martinez Moreno.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: As Director of the Irish Immigration Pastoral Center in San Francisco, I am writing in support of Jose and Micaela Martinez who reside in the Bay Area. Jose and Micaela are both citizens of Mexico and have made every attempt to regularize their status during their time in the United States. He and his wife have made a life for themselves here in the Bay Area and indeed, have given birth to two of their children here.

Jose and Micaela have been part of the Irish community for over ten years and are well known and respected within our community. They are known as decent, hard working, dedicated people—both to their employers and to their family. They have given their three children every opportunity that they themselves did not have. Both he and his wife are assets to our community.

Mr. Martinez has indeed realized his own part of the American Dream, working his way from dishwasher to Sous Chef at the renowned Palio d'Asti restaurant in San Francisco. Commitment, dedication and sheer hard work have enabled them to buy their own home in San Francisco, a feat by anyone's standards. They are the epitome of what it means to be American.

If Jose and Micaela are forced to leave the United States, yet another family will be torn apart. Their three children, aged 10, 14 and 17, will remain in San Francisco as there is nothing for them in Mexico—they have never even been to Mexico. They will grow up without the love, guidance and nurture of their parents—a dire loss to any young persons life.

The Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, which provides assistance to Irish immigrants in the Bay Area, would be greatfull if You could look favorably on Mr. and Mrs. Martinez in their request to remain in the United States.

Yours sincerely,

CELINE KENNELLY,
Executive Director.

APRIL 18, 2007.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I have known Jose Alberto Martinez and his wife Micaela since 1991 when Jose and his brother Maricio worked as cooks under my supervision at Palio d'Asti Resturant in San Francisco. We worked together for approximately three years.

Jose proved himself to be an extremely talented and responsible cook, anchoring the kitchen with little or no supervision. While working for us at Palio, he also held down part time jobs at some of the Bay Area's other top restaurants in order to learn more and move ahead. And although we didn't interact socially, I know he was an active leader active in his church and prioritized time with his family.

Jose's hard work and commitment to his family, his community and his job make him ideal candidate for U.S. citizenship. Whether as an immigrant or a citizen, Jose Martinez is an upstanding member of our community.

If you have any question regarding Jose Martinez, please call me.

Sincerely,

CRAIG STALL,
Proprietor, Delfina Restuarant.

KELLY'S FAMILY DAYCARE,
San Francisco, CA, April 18, 2007.

Re Michela and Jose Alberto Martinez.

DEAR SIR/MADAM: Michela Martinez has worked for my family for many years as our housekeeper. I have come to know Michela very well over the course of this time.

She is a very hardworking, diligent and considerate woman who has a wonderful nature and fantastic work ethic. She has always had a key to our home and we trust her with our property and our children as well.

Jose Martinez has worked for my husband as a painting subcontractor and is held in high esteem as well.

I have no reservations about giving this couple a reference and wish them the best wishes and speedy resolution of their immigration issues. Do not hesitate to contact me if you require further assistance.

Yours Faithfully,

KELLY FORDE.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH,

San Francisco, CA, April 18, 2007.

Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN,

*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Re Micaela & Jose Martinez.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am writing on behalf of Jose Alberton Martinez Moreno and his wife, Micaela, in support of their voluntary departure and impending order of deportation. Jose and Micaela are members of St. Peter's parish and their kindness to the less fortunate is well known in the Irish community.

It was with great dismay that I heard of Jose and Micaela's uncertain future in America. Jose and Micaela have lived in San Francisco for almost twenty years and have raised their three children here, two of whom are U.S. born. They are a dedicated and loving couple and deserve the opportunity to continue to give to the community that has welcomed them so warmly. I know Micaela personally and I know that it would be a very great and excessive burden for her to leave her young family behind in California—there is nothing for them in Mexico. As a priest, I see far too much hurt, when parents are separated from their children.

My thoughts and prayers are with Jose and Micaela and their family during this difficult time of uncertainty. I would ask that you look favorably on their situation and be compassionate to a family that wants to make America its home.

Please do not force them to separate and cause the destruction of this family.

With every best wish and kind regard, I remain.

Yours in Christ.

BRENDAN MCBRIDE,
Priest in Residence.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S.J. Res. 15. A joint resolution to revise United States policy on Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 15

Whereas in October 2002, Congress approved, and the President signed into law, the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243);

Whereas the preamble of Public Law 107-243 sets forth the threats to the national security of the United States that required the authorization for the use of force, and those threats were the Iraqi regime led by Saddam Hussein, its weapons of mass destruction programs, its past record of using chemical weapons, and its record of harboring and supporting international terrorist organizations;

Whereas Saddam Hussein has been executed after conviction for committing crimes against humanity, United States intelligence and military units have not discovered weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and thorough reviews by the Iraq Survey Group and the Special Advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction concluded that Iraq did not have any active weapons of mass destruction programs in the final years of the Saddam Hussein regime;

Whereas with the removal of the Iraqi regime led by Saddam Hussein, the determination that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and the establishment of a democratic constitution and a freely-elected

government in Iraq, the United States objectives set forth in Public Law 107-243 are no longer relevant to the current situation;

Whereas sectarian violence is the primary cause of instability in Iraq;

Whereas, Iraqis must reach a comprehensive and sustainable political settlement in order to achieve stability, and the failure of the Iraqis to reach such a settlement is a primary cause of increasing violence in Iraq;

Whereas the responsibility for halting sectarian violence in Iraq must rest primarily with the Government of Iraq and Iraqi security forces, and not United States Armed Forces;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the "United States Policy in Iraq Resolution of 2007".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this joint resolution to repeal the authorization for the use of force provided in 2002, to transition United States Armed Forces in Iraq to a more limited mission, and to secure the phased redeployment from Iraq of such forces not essential to that new mission.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF 2002 RESOLUTION.

The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243) is repealed.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized to continue participation by United States Armed Forces in Multi-National Force—Iraq, or as part of a successor force, for the purposes of—

- (1) Protecting United States and coalition personnel and infrastructure;
- (2) Training, equipping, and providing logistical support to Iraqi Security Forces;
- (3) Conducting targeted counter-terrorism operations; and
- (4) Assisting the Government of Iraq to maintain the security of its international borders.

(b) TRANSITION OF MISSION.—The President shall promptly transition the mission of United States forces in Iraq from the mission authorized by section 3(a) of the Authorization for Use of Military Force Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243) to the limited purposes set forth in subsection (a).

(c) COMMENCEMENT OF PHASED REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ.—The President shall commence the phased redeployment of United States forces from Iraq not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, with the goal of redeploying, by March 31, 2008, all United States combat forces from Iraq except for those essential for the limited purposes set forth in subsection (a).

(d) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this joint resolution supersedes any requirement of the War Powers Resolution.

SEC. 5. CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this joint resolution shall be construed to—

(a) limit measures necessary to provide for the safety and security of the MultiNational Force-Iraq, including United States Armed Forces;

(b) authorize offensive combat activities by United States Armed Forces in Iran, Syria, or any other state in the Middle East region.

SEC. 6. REPORT.

The President shall submit to Congress not later than 90 days after enactment of this joint resolution, and every 90 days thereafter, a report outlining the activities of the United States Armed Forces pursuant to this joint resolution, and on the progress that has been made in training the security forces of Iraq and promoting a sustainable political settlement.

SEC. 7. DURATION OF AUTHORIZATION.

The authorization under Section 4(a) shall expire on the date that is 12 months after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, unless Congress extends such authorization.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT SHOULD INCREASE BASIC PAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. KERRY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON RES. 34

Whereas the United States continues to rely extensively upon the personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard who are deployed overseas and stationed at military support installations within the United States;

Whereas uniformed services personnel, regardless of branch of service or whether serving in the active or a reserve component, have carried out their mission objectives with valor, distinction, and steadfast dedication to the cause of liberty and democracy;

Whereas 1,600,000 uniformed service men and women have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, many of whom have served multiple deployments;

Whereas there are currently more than 3,000,000 family members and dependents of those serving on active duty and reserve components;

Whereas nearly 40 percent of the members of the Armed Forces, while deployed away from their permanent duty stations, have left families with children behind;

Whereas over ½ of all service men and women who have deployed to Iraq are married;

Whereas military families have persevered in the face of challenges and continue to provide critically important comfort and care and numerous other contributions to their loved ones deployed overseas or stationed across the Nation;

Whereas there currently is a 4 percent gap between the pay of our service men and women and the private sector, and;

Whereas it is in our national interest to offer to the members of the Armed Forces comparable pay to that which the civilian sector provides in order to retain our highly qualified men and women in uniform and to faithfully reward their valiant service to our Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of all components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps by 3.5 percent, effective January 1, 2008; and

(2) Congress and the President should provide a special survivor indemnity allowance for persons affected by required Survivor Benefit Plan annuity offsets for dependency and indemnity compensation.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution to insure that our troops get the pay raise they deserve. We are all proud of our men and women in the American military who continue to perform magnificently in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. They represent the best that this country has to offer, and America owes them and their families a special debt of honor and gratitude. In light of their sacrifice, my resolution simply states that the Congress and the President should support a 3.5-percent increase in military pay in 2008 and provide a special survivor indemnity allowance to help American military families.

Unfortunately, these provisions are opposed by the Bush administration.

On May 16, the Office of Management and Budget's Statement of Administration Policy for the House fiscal year 2008 Department of Defense Authorization bill opposes section 644 of the bill, which would pay military families a monthly special survivor indemnity allowance from the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, calling the existing benefits "sufficient." The Statement of Administration Policy also "strongly opposes" the provision of the House bill which provides a 0.5-percent increase in military pay above the President's proposed 3.0 percent across-the-board pay increase, calling it "unnecessary."

I am concerned that the Bush administration's actions have failed to appropriately honor our military families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. These actions also stand in direct contrast to the will of the American people who support all efforts to support our troops.

Just go to the Military Times' own blog and read what the troops themselves say, more eloquently than any politician could put it: "If there is someone in the administration that feels that we, the hard working American soldiers, don't need additional pay raises, then maybe they should get from behind their desk and pick up a gun and vest and go stand guard at the entry control points in Iraq. And while they are out there, let's take away their 6 figure income and give them \$3.50 per day on top of anywhere from \$15 to \$45K per year. For all that we give to keep our country safe, the administration should at least want to help us eliminate any burden we may have financially. No I'm not saying make us rich and no one who enters the armed services expects to ever be rich but we don't expect to have to

take out loans just to put food on the table for our families either."

On this issue of fundamental fairness, the administration told Congress to back down. On this question, the troops will not back down and neither will we.

Those who have stood for us should know that we stand with them, today and always. Maintaining these provisions can do something to ease their burden, but truly supporting our troops requires that we act not just as individuals, but as a nation. I ask all my colleagues to support this resolution to honor our troops and our military families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1255. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1256. Mr. REID (for Mr. DORGAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 398, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1255. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 602 and insert the following:
SEC. 602. PROHIBITION ON ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR Z NONIMMIGRANTS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMMIGRANT VISAS.—A Z nonimmigrant may not be issued an immigrant visa pursuant to section 221 or 222 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201 and 1202).

(b) PROHIBITION ON ADJUSTMENT.—The status of a Z nonimmigrant may not be adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

SA 1256. Mr. REID (for Mr. DORGAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 398, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 20, strike lines 10 through 13 and insert the following:

(a) OFFENSES COMMITTED WITHIN INDIAN COUNTRY.—Section 1153(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "felony child abuse or neglect" and inserting "felony child abuse, felony child neglect".

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session

to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 53, 54, 55, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 103, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118 through 137, 141, 144 through 151, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Douglas Menarchik, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Katherine Almquist, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Paul J. Bonicelli, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Thomas E. Harvey, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Gregory B. Cade, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Douglas G. Myers, of California, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

Jeffrey Patchen, of Indiana, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

Lotsee Patterson, of Oklahoma, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Stephen W. Porter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

Cynthia Allen Wainscott, of Georgia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Steven Jeffrey Isakowitz, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK

Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank for a term of three years.

Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank for a term of three years.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the

Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General Michael D. Dubie, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Sullivan, 0000

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Charles W. Hooper, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Loree K Sutton, 0000

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Chaplains, United States Army and appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 3036:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Douglas L. Carver, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Juan A. Ruiz, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael A Vane, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David P. Fridovich, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. John G. Castellaw, 0000

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Richard C. Zilmer, 0000

The following named officer for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general in the United States Marine Corps while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Joseph F. Weber, 0000

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael J. Lyden, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Christine S. Hunter, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Adam M. Robinson, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Richard C. Vinci, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. William M. Roberts, 0000

Capt. Alton L. Stocks, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Robert J. Bianchi, 0000

Capt. Thomas C. Traaen, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Gerald R. Beaman, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Mark S. Boensel, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Dan W. Davenport, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) William E. Gortney, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Cecil E.D. Haney, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Harry B. Harris, Jr., 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Joseph D. Kernan, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael A. Lefever, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Charles J. Leidig, Jr., 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Archer M. Macy, Jr., 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Charles W. Martoglio, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Richard O'Hanlon, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Scott R. Van Buskirk, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael C. Vitale, 0000

Rear Adm. (lh) Richard B. Wren, 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Captain Joseph P. Aucoin, 0000

Captain Patrick H. Brady, 0000

Captain Ted N. Branch, 0000

Captain Paul J. Bushong, 0000

Captain James F. Caldwell, Jr., 0000

Captain Thomas H. Copeman, III, 0000

Captain Philip S. Davidson, 0000

Captain Kevin M. Donegan, 0000

Captain Patrick Driscoll, 0000

Captain Earl L. Gay, 0000

Captain Mark D. Guadagnini, 0000

Captain Joseph A. Horn, 0000

Captain Anthony M. Kurta, 0000

Captain Richard B. Landolt, 0000

Captain Sean A. Pybus, 0000

Captain John M. Richardson, 0000

Captain Thomas S. Rowden, 0000

Captain Nora W. Tyson, 0000

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mark P. Lagon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Phillip Carter, III, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea.

R. Niels Marquardt, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Union of Comoros.

Janet E. Garvey, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon.

Cameron R. Hume, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Indonesia.

James R. Keith, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia.

Miriam K. Hughes, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Ravic Rolf Huso, of Hawaii, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN374 AIR FORCE nominations (61) beginning JENNIFER S. AARON, and ending ROBERT S. ZAUNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 19, 2007.

PN532 AIR FORCE nomination of Anil P. Rajadhyax, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

PN533 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning DAREN S. DANIELSON, and ending COLLEEN M. FITZPATRICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

PN534 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning BRET R. BOYLE, and ending CHAD A. WEDDELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

PN535 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning LILLIAN C. CONNER, and ending JONATHAN L. RONES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

PN536 AIR FORCE nominations (10) beginning NANCY J. S. ALTHOUSE, and ending

PHICK H. NG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

IN THE ARMY

PN469 ARMY nomination of Timothy E. Trainor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 26, 2007.

PN537 ARMY nomination of Glen L. Dornier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

PN538 ARMY nominations (2) beginning SHIRLEY S. MIRESEPASSI, and ending SCOTT L. DIERING, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN115-3 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Ross Marvin Hicks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 10, 2007.

PN312-1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (217) beginning Patricia A. Miller, and ending Dean L. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 7, 2007.

PN387 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (21) beginning Edward W. Birgells, and ending Andrea J. Yates, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 22, 2007.

IN THE NAVY

PN539 NAVY nomination of George N. Thompson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

PN553 NAVY nomination of Dea Brueggemeyer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

PN554 NAVY nominations (2) beginning NEAL P. RIDGE, and ending RALPH L. RAYA, which nominations the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2007.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR COMMITTEES TO REPORT LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE CALENDAR BUSINESS ON MAY 31, 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, notwithstanding the recess of the Senate, the Senate committees may report leg-

islative and executive calendar business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INDIAN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY VIOLENCE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 110, S. 398.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 398) to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be considered agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider laid on the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, as if read, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1256) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the conforming amendments section)

On page 20, strike lines 10 through 13 and insert the following:

(a) OFFENSES COMMITTED WITHIN INDIAN COUNTRY.—Section 1153(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “felony child abuse or neglect” and inserting “felony child abuse, felony child neglect”.

The bill (S. 398), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 398

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act Amendments of 2007”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

Section 402 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3201) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) the Federal Government and certain State governments are responsible for investigating and prosecuting certain felony crimes, including child abuse, in Indian country, pursuant to chapter 53 of title 18, United States Code;” and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “two” and inserting “the”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) identify and remove any impediment to the immediate investigation of incidents of child abuse in Indian country.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) provide for a background investigation for any employee or volunteer who has access to children.”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “Area Office” and inserting “Regional Office”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 403 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3202) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (18) as paragraphs (7) through (19), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) ‘final conviction’ means the final judgment on a verdict or finding of guilty, a plea of guilty, or a plea of nolo contendere, but does not include a final judgment that has been expunged by pardon, reversed, set aside, or otherwise rendered void.”;

(3) in paragraph (13) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “that agency” and all that follows through “Indian tribe” and inserting “the Federal, State, or tribal agency”;

(4) in paragraph (14) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by inserting “(including a tribal law enforcement agency operating pursuant to a grant, contract, or compact under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.))” after “State law enforcement agency”;

(5) in paragraph (18) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking “and” at the end;

(6) in paragraph (19) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(20) ‘telemedicine’ means a telecommunications link to an end user through the use of eligible equipment that electronically links health professionals or patients and health professionals at separate sites in order to exchange health care information in audio, video, graphic, or other format for the purpose of providing improved health care diagnosis and treatment.”.

SEC. 4. REPORTING PROCEDURES.

Section 404 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3203) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) With-in” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “(2)(A) Any” and inserting the following:

“(2) INVESTIGATION OF REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “(B) Upon” and inserting the following:

“(B) FINAL WRITTEN REPORT.—On”; and

(ii) by inserting “including any Federal, State, or tribal final conviction, and provide to the Federal Bureau of Investigation a copy of the report” before the period at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) MAINTENANCE OF FINAL REPORTS.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall maintain a record of each written report submitted under this subsection or subsection (b) in a manner in which the report is accessible to—

“(i) a local law enforcement agency that requires the information to carry out an official duty; and

“(ii) any agency requesting the information under section 408.

“(D) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Secretary and the Attorney General, shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs and the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on child abuse in Indian country during the preceding year.

“(E) COLLECTION OF DATA.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any Indian tribe, shall—

“(i) collect any information concerning child abuse in Indian country (including reports under subsection (b)), including information relating to, during the preceding calendar year—

“(I) the number of criminal and civil child abuse allegations and investigations in Indian country;

“(II) the number of child abuse prosecutions referred, declined, or deferred in Indian country;

“(III) the number of child victims who are the subject of reports of child abuse in Indian country;

“(IV) sentencing patterns of individuals convicted of child abuse in Indian country; and

“(V) rates of recidivism with respect to child abuse in Indian country; and

“(ii) to the maximum extent practicable, reduce the duplication of information collection under clause (i).”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) CONFIDENTIALITY OF CHILDREN.—No local law enforcement agency or local child protective services agency shall disclose the name of, or information concerning, the child to anyone other than—

“(1) a person who, by reason of the participation of the person in the treatment of the child or the investigation or adjudication of the allegation, needs to know the information in the performance of the duties of the individual; or

“(2) an officer of any other Federal, State, or tribal agency that requires the information to carry out the duties of the officer under section 406.

“(f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs and the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committees on Natural Resources and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on child abuse in Indian country during the preceding year.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO REDUCING CHILD ABUSE.

Section 405 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3204) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 405. REMOVAL OF IMPEDIMENTS TO REDUCING CHILD ABUSE.

“(a) STUDY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Service, shall conduct a study under which the Secretary shall identify any impediment to the reduction of child abuse in Indian country and on Indian reservations.

“(b) INCLUSIONS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include a description of—

“(1) any impediment, or recent progress made with respect to removing impediments, to reporting child abuse in Indian country;

“(2) any impediment, or recent progress made with respect to removing impediments, to Federal, State, and tribal investigations and prosecutions of allegations of child abuse in Indian country; and

“(3) any impediment, or recent progress made with respect to removing impediments, to the treatment of child abuse in Indian country.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act Amendments of 2007, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Indian Affairs and the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committees on Natural Resources and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, a report describing—

“(1) the findings of the study under this section; and

“(2) recommendations for legislative actions, if any, to reduce instances of child abuse in Indian country.”.

SEC. 6. CONFIDENTIALITY.

Section 406 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3205) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 406. CONFIDENTIALITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any Federal, State, or tribal government agency that treats or investigates incidents of child abuse may provide information and records to an officer of any other Federal, State, or tribal government agency that requires the information to carry out the duties of the officer, in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, section 361 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 264), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g), part C of title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d et seq.), and other applicable Federal law.

“(b) TREATMENT OF INDIAN TRIBES.—For purposes of this section, an Indian tribal government shall be considered to be an entity of the Federal Government.”.

SEC. 7. WAIVER OF PARENTAL CONSENT.

Section 407 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3206) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and forensic” after “psychological”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PROTECTION OF CHILD.—Any examination or interview of a child who may have been the subject of child abuse shall—

“(1) be conducted under such circumstances and using such safeguards as are necessary to minimize additional trauma to the child;

“(2) avoid, to the maximum extent practicable, subjecting the child to multiple interviewers during the examination and interview processes; and

“(3) as time permits, be conducted using advice from, or under the guidance of—

“(A) a local multidisciplinary team established under section 411; or

“(B) if a local multidisciplinary team is not established under section 411, a multidisciplinary team established under section 410.”.

SEC. 8. CHARACTER INVESTIGATIONS.

Section 408 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3207) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “, including any voluntary positions,” after “authorized positions”; and

(ii) by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting “(including in a volunteer capacity)” after “considered for employment”; and

(ii) by striking “, and” and inserting “; and”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “guilty to” and all that follows and inserting the following: “guilty to, any felony offense under Federal, State, or tribal law, or 2 or more misdemeanor offenses under Federal, State, or tribal law, involving—

“(1) a crime of violence;

“(2) sexual assault;

“(3) child abuse;

“(4) molestation;

“(5) child sexual exploitation;

“(6) sexual contact;

“(7) child neglect;

“(8) prostitution; or

“(9) another offense against a child.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) EFFECT ON CHILD PLACEMENT.—An Indian tribe that submits a written statement to the applicable State official documenting that the Indian tribe has conducted a background investigation under this section for the placement of an Indian child in a tribally-licensed or tribally-approved foster care or adoptive home, or for another out-of-home placement, shall be considered to have satisfied the background investigation requirements of any Federal or State law requiring such an investigation.”.

SEC. 9. INDIAN CHILD ABUSE TREATMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 409 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3208) is amended by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

SEC. 10. INDIAN CHILD RESOURCE AND FAMILY SERVICES CENTERS.

Section 410 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3209) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “area office” and inserting “Regional Office”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “Human Services” and inserting “The Secretary, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Attorney General”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, State,” after “Federal”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “agency office” and inserting “Regional Office”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) adolescent mental and behavioral health (including suicide prevention and treatment);”;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “and sexual assault;”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) criminal prosecution; and

“(6) medicine.”;

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “Human Services” and inserting the following:

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Service and the Attorney General”;

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking “Each” and inserting the following

“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Each”; and

(ii) by striking “shall consist of 7 members” and inserting “shall be”;

(C) in the third sentence, by striking “Members” and inserting the following:

“(3) COMPENSATION.—Members”; and

(D) in the fourth sentence, by striking “The advisory” and inserting the following:

“(4) DUTIES.—Each advisory”;

(6) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking “(g)” and all that follows through “Indian Child Resource” and inserting the following:

“(g) APPLICATION OF INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT TO CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Indian Child Resource”;

(B) in the first sentence, by striking “Act” and inserting “and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.)”;

(C) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

“(2) CERTAIN REGIONAL OFFICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if a Center is located in a Regional Office of the Bureau that serves more than 1 Indian tribe, an application to enter into a grant, contract, or compact under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) to operate the Center shall contain a consent form signed by an official of each Indian tribe to be served under the grant, contract, or compact.

“(B) ALASKA REGION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), for Centers located in the Alaska Region, an application to enter into a grant, contract, or compact described in that subparagraph shall contain a consent form signed by an official of each Indian tribe or tribal consortium that is a member of a grant, contract, or compact relating to an Indian child protection and family violence prevention program under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.)”;

(D) in the third sentence, by striking “This section” and inserting the following:

“(3) EFFECT OF SECTION.—This section”; and

(7) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

“(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

SEC. 11. USE OF TELEMEDICINE.

The Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 412. USE OF TELEMEDICINE.

“(a) DEFINITION OF MEDICAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—In this section, the term ‘medical or behavioral health professional’ means an employee or volunteer of an organization that provides a service as part of a comprehensive service program that combines—

“(1) substance abuse (including abuse of alcohol, drugs, inhalants, and tobacco) prevention and treatment; and

“(2) mental health treatment.

“(b) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—The Service is authorized to enter into any contract or agreement for the use of telemedicine with a public or private university or facility, including a medical university or facility, or any private medical or behavioral health professional, with experience relating to pediatrics, including the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse, to assist the Service with respect to—

“(1) the diagnosis and treatment of child abuse; or

“(2) methods of training Service personnel in diagnosing and treating child abuse.

“(c) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Service shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(1) use existing telemedicine infrastructure; and

“(2) give priority to Service units and medical facilities operated pursuant to grants, contracts, or compacts under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.) that are located in, or providing service to, remote areas of Indian country.

“(d) INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION.—On receipt of a request, for purposes of this section, the Service may provide to public and private universities and facilities, including medical universities and facilities, and medical or behavioral health professionals described in subsection (b) any information or consultation on the treatment of Indian children who have, or may have, been subject to abuse or neglect.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

SEC. 12. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) OFFENSES COMMITTED WITHIN INDIAN COUNTRY.—Section 1153(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “felony child abuse or neglect” and inserting “felony child abuse, felony child neglect”.

(b) REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE.—Section 1169 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or volunteering for” after “employed by”;

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by inserting “or volunteer” after “child day care worker”; and

(ii) by striking “worker in a group home” and inserting “worker or volunteer in a group home”;

(C) in subparagraph (E), by striking “or psychological assistant,” and inserting “psychological or psychiatric assistant, or person employed in the mental or behavioral health profession;”;

(D) in subparagraph (F), by striking “child” and inserting “individual”;

(E) by striking subparagraph (G), and inserting the following:

“(G) foster parent; or”; and

(F) in subparagraph (H), by striking “law enforcement officer, probation officer” and inserting “law enforcement personnel, probation officer, criminal prosecutor”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

“(3) ‘local child protective services agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 403 of the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act (25 U.S.C. 3202); and

“(4) ‘local law enforcement agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 403 of that Act.”.

KANSAS DISASTER TAX RELIEF ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1532.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1532) to extend tax relief to residents and businesses of an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA-1699-DR) by reason of severe storms and tornados beginning on May 4, 2007, and determined by the

President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, one of the things in the bill we passed last night that was put in by the Democrats was \$40 million to take care of some of the emergency issues in Kansas. That was the right thing to do. This legislation we are passing now will extend tax relief to residents and businesses of Greensburg, KS, as a result of that tornado. I have spoken to Senator ROBERTS about this. He worked on this hard and I am glad we were able to satisfy his requests.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, and that the bill now be held at the desk pending action by the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1532) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1532

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as “Kansas Disaster Tax Relief Assistance Act”.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY TAX RELIEF FOR KIOWA COUNTY, KANSAS AND SURROUNDING AREA.

The following provisions of or relating to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply, in addition to the areas described in such provisions, to an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA-1699-DR, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act) by reason of severe storms and tornados beginning on May 4, 2007, and determined by the President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such Act with respect to damages attributed to such storms and tornados:

(1) **SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.**—Section 1400S(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 25, 2005”.

(2) **EXTENSION OF REPLACEMENT PERIOD FOR NONRECOGNITION OF GAIN.**—Section 405 of the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005, by substituting “on or after May 4, 2007, by reason of the May 4, 2007, storms and tornados” for “on or after August 25, 2005, by reason of Hurricane Katrina”.

(3) **EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS AFFECTED BY MAY 4 STORMS AND TORNADOS.**—Section 1400R(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(A) by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 28, 2005” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “January 1, 2008” for “January 1, 2006” both places it appears, and

(C) only with respect to eligible employers who employed an average of not more than 200 employees on business days during the taxable year before May 4, 2007.

(4) **SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED ON OR AFTER MAY 5, 2007.**—Section 1400N(d) of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance property” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone property” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “May 5, 2007” for “August 28, 2005” each place it appears,

(C) by substituting “December 31, 2008” for “December 31, 2007” in paragraph (2)(A)(v),

(D) by substituting “December 31, 2009” for “December 31, 2008” in paragraph (2)(A)(v),

(E) by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 27, 2005” in paragraph (3)(A),

(F) by substituting “January 1, 2009” for “January 1, 2008” in paragraph (3)(B), and

(G) determined without regard to paragraph (6) thereof.

(5) **INCREASE IN EXPENSING UNDER SECTION 179.**—Section 1400N(e) of such Code, by substituting “qualified section 179 Recovery Assistance property” for “qualified section 179 Gulf Opportunity Zone property” each place it appears.

(6) **EXPENSING FOR CERTAIN DEMOLITION AND CLEAN-UP COSTS.**—Section 1400N(f) of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance clean-up cost” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone clean-up cost” each place it appears, and

(B) by substituting “beginning on May 4, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2009” for “beginning on August 28, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2007” in paragraph (2) thereof.

(7) **TREATMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY PROPERTY DISASTER LOSSES.**—Section 1400N(o) of such Code.

(8) **TREATMENT OF NET OPERATING LOSSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO STORM LOSSES.**—Section 1400N(k) of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance loss” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone loss” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “after May 3, 2007, and before on January 1, 2010” for “after August 27, 2005, and before January 1, 2008” each place it appears,

(C) by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 28, 2005” in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)(I) thereof,

(D) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance property” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone property” in paragraph (2)(B)(iv) thereof, and

(E) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance casualty loss” for “qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone casualty loss” each place it appears.

(9) **TREATMENT OF REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING INCOME ELIGIBILITY FOR PURPOSES OF QUALIFIED RENTAL PROJECT REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 1400N(n) of such Code.

(10) **SPECIAL RULES FOR USE OF RETIREMENT FUNDS.**—Section 1400Q of such Code—

(A) by substituting “qualified Recovery Assistance distribution” for “qualified hurricane distribution” each place it appears,

(B) by substituting “on or after May 4, 2007, and before January 1, 2009” for “on or after August 25, 2005, and before January 1, 2007” in subsection (a)(4)(A)(i),

(C) by substituting “qualified storm distribution” for “qualified Katrina distribution” each place it appears,

(D) by substituting “after November 4, 2006, and before May 5, 2007” for “after February 28, 2005, and before August 29, 2005” in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii),

(E) by substituting “beginning on May 4, 2007, and ending on November 5, 2007” for “beginning on August 25, 2005, and ending on February 28, 2006” in subsection (b)(3)(A),

(F) by substituting “qualified storm individual” for “qualified Hurricane Katrina individual” each place it appears,

(G) by substituting “December 31, 2007” for “December 31, 2006” in subsection (c)(2)(A),

(H) by substituting “beginning on June 4, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2007” for

“beginning on September 24, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2006” in subsection (c)(4)(A)(i),

(I) by substituting “May 4, 2007” for “August 25, 2005” in subsection (c)(4)(A)(ii), and

(J) by substituting “January 1, 2008” for “January 1, 2007” in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2316 and H.R. 2317

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bills by title for the first time.

A bill (H.R. 2316) to provide more rigorous requirements with respect to disclosure and enforcement of lobbying laws and regulations, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2317) to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require registered lobbyists to file quarterly reports on contributions bundled for certain recipients, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I now ask for a second reading, en bloc, and object to my own request, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I also wish you a happy birthday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Thanks for being here on your birthday. I appreciate it.

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN FUNDS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1537, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1537) to authorize the transfer of certain funds from the Senate Gift Shop Revolving Fund to the Senate Employee Child Care Center.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I have to say this: The night before last at 9 o'clock at night, I got a call from the White House. They were upset because of this Christmas ornament issue on the emergency supplemental; it is so bad—Christmas tree ornaments in the emergency supplemental.

I said: Do you know what it is about? It is about the Senate Day Care Center.

They have sold Christmas tree ornaments every year to defray the cost for Senate employees for childcare. It doesn't cost the Government anything, but some lawyer said they didn't have the legal authority to do that, and we put language in the emergency supplemental to allow the Senate Day Care to sell Christmas tree ornaments.

They said: If you put it in there, the President is going to veto the bill. So we took it out.

Can you imagine that? It is hard for me to comprehend, in a budget involving \$120 billion, the President threatens to veto it over Christmas tree ornaments, something that costs the Government nothing and helps our very valued Senate employees take care of their kids.

Anyway, I couldn't pass that up.

I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate. And we got it done anyway.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1537) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1537

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFERS FROM SENATE GIFT SHOP REVOLVING FUND.

Section 2(c) of Public Law 102-392 (2 U.S.C. 121d(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The Secretary of the Senate may transfer from the fund to the Senate Employee Child Care Center proceeds from the sale of holiday ornaments by the Senate Gift Shop for the purpose of funding necessary activities and expenses of the Center, including scholarships, educational supplies, and equipment.”.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2:30 Monday, June 4; that on that day, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and that the time be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 1348, the immigration legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER

Mr. REID. Madam President, I know everyone wants to leave, but I have to

say this. As a younger man, I had a few fights in the ring. They were very minor compared to real fights in the ring with good fighters, but I had some. Today, I had the pleasure of visiting with a Las Vegas resident, Floyd Mayweather, who just beat Oscar De La Hoya in a split decision—a very big fight in Las Vegas. He is a Las Vegas resident, as I mentioned, and I wanted the record to reflect how gracious this man was to everyone who came up to him in the Senate. He signed autographs, he allowed a lot of pictures to be taken. He was just so nice and such a humble man.

When the books are written about great fighters, he will have to be near the top of the list, if not at the top. He has been deemed to be the greatest pound-per-pound fighter in the history of America, comparable to Sugar Ray Robinson.

It is nice that someone who is so famous would remember his roots and have the humility that he does to treat me, someone whom he came to see, no better than he treated all the people that he visited. So Nevada is fortunate that he considers Las Vegas his home.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007, AT 2:30 P.M.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business today, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 158, recognizing that there will be no rollcall votes on the first day we get back, Monday, June 4, 2007.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:28 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 4, 2007, at 2:30 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate May 25, 2007:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE II, SECTION 2, CLAUSE 2, OF THE CONSTITUTION:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK W. TILLMAN, 0000

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Friday, May 25, 2007.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DOUGLAS MENARCHIK, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

KATHERINE ALMQUIST, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

PAUL J. BONICELLI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

THOMAS E. HARVEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

GREGORY B. CADE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

DOUGLAS G. MYERS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2011.

JEFFREY PATCHEN, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2011.

LOTSEE PATTERSON, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2011.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

STEPHEN W. PORTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2012.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

CYNTHIA ALLEN WAINSCOTT, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

STEVEN JEFFREY ISAKOWITZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MARIO MANCUSO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR EXPORT ADMINISTRATION.

NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK

JANIS HERSCHKOWITZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

NGUYEN VAN HANH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

MICHAEL K. KUSSMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARK P. LAGON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.

PHILLIP CARTER, III, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA.

R. NIELS MARQUARDT, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNION OF COMOROS.

JANET E. GARVEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

CAMERON R. HUME, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA.

JAMES R. KEITH, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MALAYSIA.

MIRIAM K. HUGHES, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

RAVIC ROLF HUSO, OF HAWAII, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

HANS G. KLEMM, OF MICHIGAN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL D. DUBIE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. KEVIN J. SULLIVAN, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES H. JACOBY, JR., 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHARLES W. HOOPER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COL. LOREE K. SUTTON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES ARMY AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 3036:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS L. CARVER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. JUAN A. RUIZ, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. RONALD L. BURGESS, JR., 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL A. VANE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID P. FRIDOVICH, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN G. CASTELLAW, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RICHARD C. ZILMER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOSEPH F. WEBER, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL J. LYDEN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) CHRISTINE S. HUNTER, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) ADAM M. ROBINSON, JR., 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. RICHARD C. VINCI, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. WILLIAM M. ROBERTS, 0000
CAPT. ALTON L. STOCKS, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. ROBERT J. BIANCHI, 0000
CAPT. THOMAS C. TRAAEN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) GERALD R. BEAMAN, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) MARK S. BOENSEL, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) DAN W. DAVENPORT, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM E. GORTNEY, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) CECIL E. D. HANEY, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) HARRY B. HARRIS, JR., 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH D. KERNAN, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL A. LEFEVER, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) CHARLES J. LEIDIG, JR., 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) ARCHER M. MACY, JR., 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) CHARLES W. MARTOGLIO, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD O'HANLON, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT R. VAN BUSKIRK, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL C. VITALE, 0000
REAR ADM. (LH) RICHARD B. WREN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN JOSEPH P. AUCOIN, 0000
CAPTAIN PATRICK H. BRADY, 0000
CAPTAIN TED N. BRANCH, 0000
CAPTAIN PAUL J. BUSHONG, 0000

CAPTAIN JAMES F. CALDWELL, JR., 0000
CAPTAIN THOMAS H. COPPEMAN III, 0000
CAPTAIN PHILIP S. DAVIDSON, 0000
CAPTAIN KEVIN M. DONEGAN, 0000
CAPTAIN PATRICK DRISCOLL, 0000
CAPTAIN EARL L. GAY, 0000
CAPTAIN MARK D. GUADAGNINI, 0000
CAPTAIN JOSEPH A. HORN, 0000
CAPTAIN ANTHONY M. KURTA, 0000
CAPTAIN RICHARD B. LANDOLT, 0000
CAPTAIN SEAN A. PYBUS, 0000
CAPTAIN JOHN M. RICHARDSON, 0000
CAPTAIN THOMAS S. ROWDEN, 0000
CAPTAIN NORA W. TYSON, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER S. AARON AND ENDING WITH ROBERT S. ZAUNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 19, 2007 (MINUS: MITCHELL G. MABREY).

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ANIL P. RAJADHYAX, 0000, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAREN S. DANIELSON AND ENDING WITH COLLEEN M. FITZPATRICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 9, 2007.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRET R. BOYLE AND ENDING WITH CHAD A. WEDDELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 9, 2007.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LILLIAN C. CONNER AND ENDING WITH JONATHAN L. RONES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 9, 2007.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NANCY J. S. ALTHOUSE AND ENDING WITH PHICK H. NG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 9, 2007.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY E. TRAINOR, 0000, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF GLEN L. DORNER, 0000, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SHIRLEY S. MIRESEPASSI AND ENDING WITH SCOTT L. DIERING, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 9, 2007.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF ROSS MARVIN HICKS.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PATRICIA A. MILLER AND ENDING WITH DEAN L. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 7, 2007 (MINUS: MITCHELL G. MABREY).

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EDWARD W. BIRGELLS AND ENDING WITH ANDREA J. YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 22, 2007.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF GEORGE N. THOMPSON, 0000, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DEA BRUEGGEMEYER, 0000, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NEAL P. RIDGE AND ENDING WITH RALPH L. RAYA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 9, 2007.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT GLENN D. HICKS, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

SGT Glenn D. Hicks, Jr., was a proud U.S. Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on April 28, 2007, during combat operations in Salman Park, Iraq.

Assigned to the Third Infantry Division, Glenn enlisted during a time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Moreover, he was a leader and mentor to younger soldiers and his service as a sergeant—the backbone of the Army, exemplifies that spirit.

Sergeant Hicks is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn D. Hicks, Sr., three brothers and his grandparents.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all of Glenn's family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Sergeant Hicks' memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

SGT Glenn D. Hicks will never be forgotten. his memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA GOVERNOR BOB RILEY AND ALABAMA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE DIRECTOR NEAL WADE FOR THEIR ROLE IN RECRUITING THYSSENKRUPP TO ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Alabama Governor Bob Riley and Alabama Development Office Director Neal Wade for their efforts in recruiting ThyssenKrupp to build a new steel mill in southwest Alabama. ThyssenKrupp is one of Germany's leading steel industries, employing over 180,000 workers at 670 sites around the world, and their economic impact will certainly resonate across Mobile County and the State of Alabama.

Both Governor Riley and Mr. Wade worked extensively over the past 2 years to recruit this world class steel company to Alabama. In an unprecedented way, leaders from across Alabama and the future region came together to promote the Alabama site.

Make no mistake, Alabama encountered stiff competition in their recruitment attempts.

ThyssenKrupp chose Alabama from an initial pool of 67 other locations in 20 States across the country. While other States made competitive offers, ThyssenKrupp determined that Alabama is the best fit—due in large part to the efforts of Governor Bob Riley and Director Wade.

Over a century ago, steel was Alabama's "cash crop" and steel manufacturing played a major role in Alabama's industrial revolution. Now in 2007, Alabama is one of the leading producers of automobiles in the United States. ThyssenKrupp's announcement brings Alabama's steel legacy full circle.

The impact of this new steel mill will be profound. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill promises at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, paying upwards of \$50,000 a year. Construction will require almost 30,000 employees who will earn \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. Such benefits would not be possible without the efforts of Alabama's outstanding governor and ADO director.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Alabama Governor Bob Riley and Alabama Development Office Director Neal Wade for their outstanding accomplishments. I would like to offer each of them my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the First Congressional District for their continued contributions to the great State of Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LUZVIMINDA BANARIA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Luzviminda Banaria, R.N., who has distinguished herself as an outstanding nurse and citizen.

Ms. Luzviminda Banaria has worked at the University Medical Center for over 16 years as a Registered Nurse. She has worked as the pediatric coordinator, and currently is in the surgical department. Ms. Banaria holds many certifications as a nurse, but also serves her community in many ways. She is currently the secretary for the Philippine Nurses Association in Nevada and has been since 2004. She has also served with the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Committee, the board of directors for Luzon Philippine Association of Nevada, and the Bicolanos of Nevada. Ms. Banaria currently serves as the treasurer of the National Federation of Filipinos Association of America and was the vice president of Western UST Nurses Alumni Association of America from 2004–2006. She has even extended a helping hand by sponsoring two patients in the Philippines in need of medical care. Ms. Banaria also helped coordinate medical missions to the needy in the Philippines. She truly has helped many people in the Las Vegas Valley as well as in the Philippines.

Madam Speaker, it is my personal honor to recognize Luzviminda Banaria, R.N., in her outstanding service. I applaud her efforts and wish her continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING MILITARY SERVICE OF CHIEF YEOMAN (SURFACE WARFARE/ PARACHUTIST) DWIGHT R. SCOTT

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding military service and contributions to our country of YNC (SW/ PJ) Dwight R. Scott, U.S. Navy, a native of Punta Gorda, FL, on the occasion of his retirement from military service on July 31, 2007.

Born in 1967, Chief Scott grew up in Columbus, OH, and attended Brookhaven High School. He entered the Navy in October 1985 as part of the Ohio State Buckeye Company. After completion of Recruit Training at Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, IL, he reported to Deck Division aboard USS *Mississippi* (CGN 40) at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. He was meritoriously advanced while stationed at Great Lakes.

In June 1986, he was advanced to seaman and tried his hand in the administrative field. He subsequently passed the Yeoman advancement test and advanced to Yeoman Third Class in June 1988. In July 1989, he was meritoriously advanced to Petty Officer Second Class and assigned to the Operations Department. He then qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist proving his knowledge of how the ship operates and fights in time of war.

In January 1990, Chief Scott accepted orders to the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic Command, SACLANT. After a short time on board, he was selected to work for the SACLANT Protocol Office, working directly for the Chief of Staff. As Protocol Assistant, he developed and implemented the NATO locator, a directory of over 400 dignitaries from 16 NATO nations. He was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal for his contributions to the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic.

Promoted to First Class in November 1993, he was assigned to Joint Special Operations Command, JSOC, in Fayetteville, NC. At JSOC, he qualified as a parachutist with the Army 82nd Airborne and then qualified as a Naval Parachutist. Chief Scott was awarded the Australian Army Parachute Badge, the Joint Special Achievement Medal, Second Award, and the Joint Commendation Medal. After 4 years at JSOC he was assigned to the Office of Legislative Affairs, OLA—the very best job of his career. Chief Scott worked on Capitol Hill for 4 years and traveled extensively with Members of Congress and their

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

staffs. He earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his contributions to OLA.

In May 1999, he earned the rank of chief petty officer and received orders to Commander, Military Sealift Command, Europe, COMSCEUR, in Naples, Italy. He served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, Administrative Officer and Command Chief to COMSCEUR. He was entrusted with the health, morale, and welfare of all COMSC enlisted sailors assigned to the European Area of Responsibility. Chief Scott earned the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Second Award) for his noteworthy contributions. In November 2005, he accepted orders as the Leading Chief Petty Officer in the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The citizens of the State of Mississippi, particularly the 4th Congressional District, are proud of Chief Scott's service. They join me in thanking him and his family for their contributions to the Navy and the Nation, and in wishing them all the best both now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ORVAL ALLEN KELSO

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Orval Allen Kelso.

Today, deeply engaged in a war on terror, thousands of American civilians are working and serving in harm's way. Like the brave men and women serving in uniform, these patriotic citizens risk their lives everyday in an effort to rebuild a stronger future for the people of Iraq. However, they are not alone. American civilian contractors have been operating in combat theatres since as early as World War II, and I am here today to tell you about one of those.

Orval Allen Kelso was a civilian working on Wake Island during the early 1940s. Hailing from Emmett, Idaho, Orval worked as a baker in his father-in-law's bakery before going on to pursue better wages working overseas. Mr. Kelso worked as a heavy machine operator throughout the Pacific until April 8, 1943, when he was captured and taken as a POW to Camp 18, Sesabo, Japan. Orval later died in that camp. His remains were claimed by his son in 1949, when they were brought back to rest on U.S. soil at the National Memorial Cemetery, Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is fitting that we honor Mr. Kelso for his sacrifice and also be reminded of the many others who were taken prisoner or who paid the ultimate sacrifice working in harm's way. We often forget about the non-military Americans who gave their all for the freedoms we cherish in our great Nation. Let us help remedy that today by recognizing Mr. Kelso and the civilian POW's taken during World War II. They are an exemplary example of the selflessness displayed by Americans in an effort to bring peace and freedom to millions, and we thank them for their sacrifice.

COMMENDING MRS. PATRICIA CASSELL ON HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY.

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LoBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mrs. Patricia Cassell on her long and distinguished service to her community, and congratulate her on her upcoming retirement after 48 years of teaching.

As a first grader, Mrs. Cassell knew her future lay in the field of education. However, coming from modest means, Mrs. Cassell understood that she would have to work exceptionally hard to achieve her dream. At a very young age, she began saving her money in order to pay for her college education. After graduating sixth in her high school class of 308, she earned two academic scholarships to Millersville State Teachers College, where she earned her degree in elementary education in just 3 years.

Her first job teaching started just over 48 years ago, in Myerstown, Pennsylvania, and she has been teaching since. After moving to Atlantic City, NJ, in 1973 with her husband, Daniel, Mrs. Cassell soon accepted a position at Atlantic Christian School where she has taught for 29 years.

Throughout her 48 years of teaching, Mrs. Cassell has remained a steadfast example of exemplary service, guidance, and dedication to her students. For this, she was awarded the Career Service and Achievement Award from the Association of Christian Schools International. I would like to personally congratulate Mrs. Cassell on behalf of the students she has taught over the years and ask that she thoroughly enjoy her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HILDA McDONALD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of former Milton City Councilwoman Hilda McDonald. Following a battle with cancer, Hilda left us Thursday, May 17, at the age of 83.

A native Floridian, Hilda pursued a degree in research biology from Florida State's College for Women. However, she gave up her studies during World War II to teach under an emergency teaching certificate. This kind of selfless behavior was prominent throughout Hilda's life.

In 1984, Hilda began serving on the City Council for the city of Milton and remained on the board for 16 years. During these years Hilda founded Blackwater Baptist Church and the Benevolent Association of Santa Rosa County. She also became the first President of the Women's Advisory Council for Santa Rosa Hospital and led as Chair for the restoration of Milton's City Hall. Mayor Guy Thompson who knew Hilda for 30 years explained, "She had a heart for helping people, and that reflected in the life she led."

It is certain the people of Milton are mourning the loss of Hilda, who played an important role in over 15 community organizations. However, her legacy is sure to continue through the generations of her family she nurtured and guided. My thoughts and prayers remain with her 9 children, 13 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and her brother.

Hilda's daughter, Mary Golden, has said of her mother "the one thing I would like my mother to be known for was that she was a giver. She gave to others constantly throughout her life. And she was such a good mother, a wonderful Christian mother."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with no small amount of sorrow that I tell of the passing of Hilda McDonald from this world. Hilda will be remembered as a leader, a giver, and an adamant philanthropist. May God rest her soul and continue to bless her family.

BURMA

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the attached report describing the attacks by the brutal military dictatorship against the ethnic peoples of Burma. The situation facing the internally displaced is dire. The international community needs to step up its assistance to refugees and displaced persons. In addition, the international community must act immediately to stop the ethnic cleansing and other horrific acts by the dictatorship against the people of Burma.

REFUGEES INTERNATIONAL—BURMA: MILITARY OFFENSIVE DISPLACING THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS

The worst Burmese military offensive in 10 years has displaced at least 27,000 people in eastern Burma's Karen State since November 2005. The displaced are civilians who have been targeted by the army and are living in exceptionally vulnerable conditions. An estimated three million people have been forced to migrate in Burma as a result of conflict, persecution, human rights abuses, and repressive government measures that prevent people from earning a livelihood. Instead of fulfilling its responsibility to protect its citizens, the Government of Burma, known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), is the biggest perpetrator of violations in the country.

Ethnic groups, comprising one-third of Burma's 52 million people, have borne the brunt of the government's repressive policies. The pattern of the Burmese military or the Tatmadaw has been to eliminate all opposition and take full control of ethnic areas. As part of its strategy to curb the support of ethnic insurgent armies, it targets civilians it perceives as backers of the insurgent groups.

In the course of Tatmadaw operations at least 3,000 villages have been destroyed along the eastern Burma border since 1996. Villagers have been forced to flee to hiding sites in jungles, move to government-controlled relocation sites, or travel to relatively more secure ceasefire locations. Today Burma is estimated to have the worst internal displacement crisis in Asia. More than 500,000 civilians are displaced in eastern Burma, with those in hiding being the most vulnerable. People unable to care for themselves

and their families have fled to Burma's neighboring countries of Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand in search of asylum. Burma's refugee crisis has a regional impact and the number of refugees from the country is believed to be more than one million.

As the military takes control of new territory in ethnic areas, it initiates development projects and exploits natural resources, which displace more civilians. The forced migration of civilians is ongoing even in ethnic states, such as Mon and Kachin, where political leaders have signed ceasefire agreements with the central authorities. According to a Burmese asylum seeker interviewed by Refugees International in Thailand, "The outside world thinks that just because a cease fire has been signed between the Mon and the SPDC, it is safe for us to live in Burma. But we continue to face abuses on a daily basis. The military confiscated all my orchards and my family could barely survive. We still tried to stay but had to leave when the military tried to recruit my teenage son."

The Karen National Union, the indigenous political leadership in Karen State, has not entered into a ceasefire agreement with the SPDC and conflict and displacement are not new phenomena there. However, the intensity and spread of the Tatmadaw offensive in recent months are estimated to be the worst in more than a decade. The attack is linked to the military's attempt to consolidate its control over parts of Karen State and the districts of Toungoo, Papun and Nyaunglebin have been particularly hard-hit by the offensive. According to a community-based organization assisting the internally displaced, the recent attacks differ from previous ones in that the military did not withdraw during the 2006 rainy season but continued to attack the same areas repeatedly.

In order to protect themselves, Karen communities have been trying to establish early warning systems. Villagers are constantly on watch to be able to anticipate Tatmadaw attacks and whenever possible, the Karen ethnic army has been warning villagers ahead of an attack so they can go into hiding. At present there remains a lack of an adequate number of communication tools for advance warning.

The military has planted a large number of landmines in and around villages so people are unable to go beyond a certain area, and at the time of harvesting many do not have access to their crops. In some parts of Karen State the army has set rice fields on fire. According to the estimates of a community-based organization assisting the internally displaced, 25,000 people have lost their harvest for the entire year, and in Lerdo Township alone, 2,800 civilians are believed to have been taken away from their villages and fields by the Tatmadaw to relocation sites where they are being forced to dig trenches and build fencing. Since 2006, the military has also placed a prohibition on trading in some areas of Karen State and prevented villagers from selling or buying certain products around harvest time. After harvest time, villagers are allowed to sell their products, but at half the normal price and only to the military, contributing to food insecurity.

Besides food, the displaced are in urgent need of shelter and medicines. The displaced in Karen State are being assisted largely through cross-border assistance, coming from agencies based in Thailand, and a few community-based organizations inside Burma. This aid is helping people cope with their situation and preventing large numbers from fleeing to Thailand as refugees. Although in recent years donors have allocated more funds for aid to internally displaced people, both for cross-border operations and

those inside Burma, the number of vulnerable people has gone up significantly with the latest offensive in Karen State and it is critical that donors respond accordingly.

In terms of medical assistance, Karen internally displaced people are relying largely on traditional curative techniques or on mobile teams, back pack health workers, and Karen medical units who may be able to access them only after navigating their way through heavily militarized territory.

Organizations based in Thailand and Burma that are assisting the internally displaced from across the border and inside the country have improved communications in recent months, but there remains a need to strengthen information sharing on the activities being undertaken by both sides.

Many of those displaced in the recent attacks in Karen State who have been able to reach the Thai-Burma border are living in settlements on the Burma side. One of these, the Ei Tu Hta camp, set up in April 2006, is home to 3,000 persons mostly from Toungoo district. Approximately 5,000 recently displaced Karen have also crossed the border into Thailand. Some of them have entered refugee camps, are recognized as asylum seekers, and are awaiting approval from the Provincial Admission Boards, the Thai Government's entities for processing new arrivals. This has largely been the case in Mae Hong Son Province. In Tak Province's Mae La camp, however, none of the new arrivals are recognized and they are living unofficially in the camp.

The Thai Government is concerned that recent efforts to resettle Burmese refugees in third countries is drawing recent arrivals to camps. The Governor of Tak Province has announced that no food or accommodation would be made available to new arrivals in the camps in that province. Further, the Provincial Admission Boards are not fully functional in each of the provinces, and there remains a void for processing new arrivals in certain areas.

The Burmese internal displacement and refugee crises are linked to the regime's policy of targeting civilians. All regional and local initiatives to urge the SPDC to stop attacking civilians and protect its people have failed. The non-binding Security Council resolution introduced by the U.S. in January 2007, which included a call to the SPDC to cease attacks on the country's ethnic minorities, was vetoed by China and Russia. Until such time that all members of the UN Security Council acknowledge that the SPDC must be held accountable, and develop a united approach to address the government's failure to protect its people, the worst internal displacement crisis in Asia will persist.

Refugees International, therefore, recommends that:

The Burmese military immediately halt all attacks on civilians.

The UN Security Council members reach consensus on a strategy to pressure the SPDC to stop its abuse of civilians and hold it accountable for its failure to protect Burma's people.

Donors support initiatives to assist internally displaced people by agencies doing cross-border work and agencies operating inside Burma, with funding directed to the most vulnerable.

Donors support initiatives to enhance IDP protection through early warning systems.

Agencies based inside Burma and organizations operating out of Thailand continue to improve coordination and collaboration through regular meetings and information sharing forums.

The Government of Thailand allow new asylum seekers from Burma official access to all camps and ensure that the Provincial

Admission Boards are functioning consistently so the new arrivals can be processed.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF HELEN BRADLEY

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Helen Bradley, a woman who spent a lifetime giving back to the community she loved dearly through her dedicated service as Jefferson County clerk. She was a true treasure to Pine Bluff and Jefferson County, and her honorable service will never be forgotten by the State of Arkansas. She passed away May 11, 2007, in Pine Bluff, AR, at the age of 59.

I am grateful to have known Helen Bradley and to have had the privilege to call her a personal friend. She spent her life and career making her community a better place for all who called it home.

Mrs. Bradley's lasting impact on Jefferson County will be remembered forever. Her selfless and devoted career began after graduating from what is now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, when she was hired as deputy county clerk for Jefferson County. She held that position for 22 years before she was elected to serve as Jefferson County's first African-American county clerk. During her career, she also served as secretary for the Jefferson County Quorum Court and the Equalization Board. Mrs. Bradley was also a member of the International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers, the West Pine Bluff Rotary Club and she was a proud member of the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, she received the distinguished Pine Bluff Branch NAACP Dove Freedom Award in October 2006.

My deepest condolences go to Mrs. Bradley's husband, Sylvester Bradley, Sr., of Pine Bluff; her two sons, Sedgwick McCollum of Flint, MI, and Brandon Bradley of Plano, TX; her daughter, Tarnisha Gibson of Columbia, SC; her two brothers, James Edward McClinton of Flint, MI, and John Albert McClinton of Pine Bluff; her sister, Cecile Blade of Pine Bluff; and to her 9 grandchildren. Mrs. Bradley will be greatly missed, and her contributions to the city of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County and the State of Arkansas will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCING THE CHARITABLE REMAINDER PET TRUST ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today, Representative RAMSTAD and I are introducing legislation that revises the Internal Revenue Code, IRC, to treat pet trusts in a similar manner as charitable remainder annuity trusts, CRATs. It will allow estates and donors with CRATs with a pet, or its guardian as

a beneficiary, to receive a charitable deduction for the remainder interest when the trust is established. The bill provides a tax incentive for people to arrange for long-term care of their pets, which will result in a reduction of society's burden in caring for "unwanted" dogs and cats after the guardian dies.

Currently 39 States and the District of Columbia allow pet trusts, which is a specific legal arrangement providing for the care of companion animals in the event of the guardian's death or incapacitation. When the pet passes, the remainder of the trust is then distributed to one or more pre-designated charities. Recognition of these trusts by the Federal Tax Code will allow for long-term planning of care for pets, as well as encourage people to engage in charitable giving. The legislation bears no cost burden for the Federal Government and brings relief to animal lovers and shelters alike.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLES MCMILLAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles McMillan, a constituent of the 26th District of Texas, who has been elected the new President for the National Association of Realtors for 2008 and will subsequently serve as Chairman for NAR in 2009.

Mr. McMillan, a Realtor® for more than 20 years, is director of realty relations and principal broker for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Dallas-Fort Worth. At the national level, McMillan was NAR 2006 first vice president-elect. He has twice served as NAR regional vice president of Region X, which includes Texas and Louisiana. He is a member of the NAR Leadership Team, the executive committee, and the Strategic Planning committee. He has also been recognized by NAR as an expert in the areas of agency, antitrust, misrepresentation, fair housing, and diversity.

In 1998, he was president of the Texas Association of Realtors®, and was vice president and secretary-treasurer before that. He was Texas "Realtor® of the Year" in 2000, and now has risen to the leadership role of president of the National Association of Realtors for 2008.

Mr. McMillan is also very active in his north Texas community as a life member of the Texas Real Estate Teachers Association. He is a past chairman of the Community Development Council of Fort Worth, the Tarrant County Affordable Housing Task Force, and the Housing Subcommittee of Fort Worth, and a past director of the United Way of Tarrant County and of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

It is my honor to congratulate Mr. Charles McMillan for his recent election to president of his association. He is admired in the community for helping others, and I am glad that his work is being recognized at a national level. I am honored to represent him in Congress.

HONORING NANCY EWTON SHARPE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF A MAJOR MILESTONE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, Milestones indicate distances traveled by one or many, collectively. I rise today to honor one individual from the beautiful Sequatchie Valley for having reached the 50-year anniversary of a major milestone in her life.

Ms. Nancy Ewton Sharpe of Dunlap, Tennessee, the first born of W. Howard and Jeanette Campbell Ewton, was brought into this world on April 1, 1938. Her grandparents, F.P. and Nancy Ann Ewton, started a funeral home in 1919 and built their own caskets. Nancy attended school in Dunlap for 12 years graduating in 1956. She then began studies at the John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science in Nashville, Tennessee. Graduating in 1957, she was the first dually licensed female funeral director-embalmer in the State of Tennessee. I rise today to honor Ms. Sharpe's accomplishment and celebrate the 50th anniversary of her success.

TRIBUTE TO JONESBORO H.S. MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great achievement by students in my congressional district. Congratulations to the Jonesboro High School Mock Trial Team, which proudly represented the State of Georgia at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Dallas, Texas, in early May. The Jonesboro team defeated 40 other schools from across the Nation to win the 2007 National Title.

Mock Trial offers students the opportunity to understand the many important aspects of our legal system, including trial preparation and standard courtroom procedures. In the fall, each team begins to prepare for their local competition by preparing for trial just as real lawyers would. If a team like Jonesboro High School is so fortunate to win both county and State competitions, they have half as much time to prepare for a substantially harder competition at the national level. Even with these great challenges, the Jonesboro team persevered and achieved victory nationally and they are champions.

I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication of the Jonesboro High School team by acknowledging the students and coaches who made this victory possible. The competitors were Brian Cunningham, Lindley Curtis, Kayla Delgado, Matthew Mitchell, Braeden Orr, Laura Parkhouse, Kyle Skinner, Britt Walden, Jayda Hazell, Joe Strickland, Lindsay Hargis, Jurod James, Sandra Hagans and Tabias Kelly. The Jonesboro High team was led by Anna and Andrew Cox, attorney coaches John Carbo and Deborah Benefield, Tasha Mosley and Mercer Law School student coach Katie Powers.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I wish to extend congratulations to all of these outstanding individuals in achieving the 2007 National High School Mock Trial National Title.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STOP DE- CEPTIVE ADVERTISING FOR WOMEN'S SERVICES ACT (SDAWS)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing important legislation that will protect the rights of women seeking information on family planning services. Too often, women who are facing the difficult consequences of an unintended pregnancy are being deceived and intimidated. Fake reproductive health clinics entice women with unintended pregnancies through their doors under the pretense of providing the full range of reproductive options. Called crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs), they pose as sources of unbiased pregnancy counseling using neutral-sounding names and advertisements. Some of these centers have even conducted market research to ensure that women looking for healthcare will be tricked into believing that the anti-choice centers will provide unbiased medical information. The centers also lure unsuspecting women with the offer of free pregnancy testing or HIV tests. Once inside, the clinic staff—usually volunteers with no professional training—try to dissuade women from abortion by subjecting them to inaccurate medical information, anti-choice propaganda, and intimidation.

In response to the deceitful practices of these centers, this legislation requires the Federal Trade Commission to promulgate rules under the Federal Trade Commission Act, declaring it an unfair or deceptive act for an entity, such as a crisis pregnancy center, to advertise as a provider of abortion services if the entity does not provide abortion services. Working together we can help stop the fraud these deceptive Crisis Pregnancy Centers are perpetrating on the women of America.

THE INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 156, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEC- ARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce this Resolution expressing support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and urging the United States Ambassador to the United Nations General Assembly to support the adoption without amendment of the Declaration as adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council on June 29, 2006.

There are over 300 million indigenous peoples throughout the world today, striving for international recognition of their collective

rights as they struggle to preserve their cultures, traditions, and social values. In their respective States, these indigenous groups face serious challenges of marginalization, discrimination, loss of lands, and lack of economic development in their communities.

The draft U.N. Declaration recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination, freedom from discrimination, and freedom from forced assimilation. This Declaration would establish an international policy on indigenous rights and provide a framework for States in the treatment of their indigenous populations.

The U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, over 24 years in the making, is an important step forward in the advancement of stronger, more harmonious relationships between the indigenous peoples of the world and States. In many ways, the United States stands as a model for other nations as we support a Federal policy of self-determination for our own indigenous people. Passage of this Resolution, H. Con. Res. 156, would demonstrate our commitment here in Congress to support the rights of our indigenous people here and throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to join me and support H. Con. Res. 156.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER MULTI-SPECIES CONSERVATION ACT

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, today Representative DEAN HELLER and I introduced the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Act. The bill is a companion to S. 300, which was introduced in the Senate earlier this year by Senator JON KYL of Arizona.

The bill provides for a long-term, comprehensive, cooperative program among 50 Federal and non-Federal entities in Arizona, California, and Nevada to protect 26 endangered, threatened and sensitive species on the Lower Colorado River and to provide assurances to affected water and power agencies of the two States that their operations may continue upon compliance with the requirements of this program.

The program will create over 8,100 acres of riparian, marsh and backwater habitat for protected species, and includes plans for the rearing and stocking of more than 1.2 million fish to augment populations of two endangered fish covered by the program.

The program will operate on and around the Colorado River from Lake Mead to the U.S.-Mexico border, but like most water issues relating to the Colorado, its effects will be felt throughout Arizona, and across the southwestern United States.

This bill has been more than a decade in the making, and I believe it is a worthy, bipartisan compromise. The program's cost will be divided 50–50 between the Federal Government and the non-Federal participants. California participants will pay 50 percent of the non-Federal share, and Arizona and Nevada participants will pay 25 percent of the non-Federal share.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the weeks and months to come to make this long sought program a reality.

RECOGNIZING THE TERMINAL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS AS THE 2007 RECIPIENT OF THE E.H. HARRIMAN AWARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis for being awarded the E.H. Harriman Award in recognition of their outstanding safety achievements.

The E.H. Harriman Award was established in 1913 by Mary Harriman, wife of the late Edward H. Harriman, who controlled and expanded a number of railroads, including the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Illinois Central. Mary Harriman, nee Averell, was from a railroad family herself so it was fitting that she would establish this award to recognize safety achievements on the part of the railroads whose workers labored in some of the most dangerous occupations.

While the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis was established in 1889, its predecessor companies were the pioneers in the river crossing at St. Louis which played a pivotal part in the growth of the states west of the Mississippi. Originally, ferries transported cargo and passengers across the Mississippi River at St. Louis until the first bridge, the Eads Bridge which still functions today, was completed in 1874. A second bridge was added in 1890 and, with the concentration of a number of railroads crossing the Mississippi at this location, it soon became apparent that a coordinated effort was necessary to handle the growing switching operations on the Missouri side in St. Louis and on the Illinois side in St. Clair and Madison counties. The Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis was formed by the predecessor river crossing companies and the six railroads that converged at the Illinois and Missouri sides of the Mississippi River at St. Louis.

Today, the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis owns two bridges across the Mississippi, several rail lines within St. Louis, Missouri and St. Clair and Madison counties in Illinois as well as a switching facility in Madison, Illinois. At this switching facility, approximately 30,000 rail cars each month move through 80 holding tracks as they are redirected to routes that will take them, their cargo and passengers to locations all throughout the country.

Workplace safety is a critical component of any commercial enterprise and railroads have historically been among the most dangerous places to work. With the tremendous volume of traffic handled daily by the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, the safety of their workers relies on a cooperative effort on the part of management and those workers who must engage in these hazardous activities. Terminal Railroad has been a recipient of the E.H. Harriman Award a number of times in the past and this recent award recognizes their achievement in workplace safety during 2006.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, its management and employees for this very well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO WHITEMORE ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 100 years of history in a small town in my congressional district. This weekend, the city of Whittemore celebrates its 100th anniversary, an all the residents of Whittemore should be proud of their contributions to the growth of this community.

While Whittemore was officially incorporated as a city in 1907, the community's history dates back to an earlier time. Before its official incorporation, the city was part of Burleigh Township and was a timber town. The area was well known for its white pine timber. In the late 1800s, lumbering moved west from neighboring Tawas City, and a rail line was constructed to transport timber from the small logging community that would become Whittemore to Tawas City. Because of this early economic development, Whittemore was officially incorporated in 1907, the community was already booming.

During the early 1900s, the area underwent a significant economic shift. As lumber supplies in the area were depleted, the town evolved into a farming community, and families from around the region flocked to the Whittemore area to purchase affordable farmland. It was during this early period that the historic Bullock's and Horr Hall was constructed. The Hall, which is recognized as a local landmark, still stands today and houses the Masonic Temple. In the early 1900s, the building served as a gathering place for residents. In 1907, the Whittemore High School was erected.

The area continued to thrive throughout the early twentieth century and, by the 1940s, the town was thriving with a local bank, a hotel and bar, three grocery stores, and two car dealerships. Whittemore also boasted Joe Collins' Five and Dime store, a gathering place for local children who would visit the store daily to purchase candy.

The 1940s also brought about the creation of the Whittemore Speedway; which still exists today and is considered Michigan's oldest speedway. In 1948, Whittemore Speedway started as a half-mile dirt track. Area residents would gather there every Saturday night with friends, family and neighbors to watch the races. Throughout the 1940s, the race track served as the entertainment focal point for this small community.

The Whittemore Speedway has been continually updated and improved throughout the years. It continues to thrive today, hosting some of the best local family entertainment and races, while contributing many of its proceeds to area charity organizations and communities.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Whittemore continued to boom, but, like in many small towns across our nation, things began to change. One of the major employers, National Gypsum, began making employee cutbacks as it modernized its facility. Gradually, over time, businesses began moving out of Whittemore.

Yet, while change had come to Whittemore, the citizens of the town and its surrounding

community have kept many of the characteristics that have guided its growth over the past century. The entrepreneurial spirit that resulted in the early settlement of the area as a logging community remains intact today. Local businesses continue to proudly exhibit that same entrepreneurial spirit. For instance, Sherni's Candies in Whittemore continues to ship candy all over the country. Dixon and Ryan, the inventor of a unique tool used in NASCAR to measure wear on tires, continues to thrive. Turner Cheese Company continues to specialize in the creation of amazingly creamy and flavorful cheese.

The young people of Whittemore-Prescott High School have also achieved a number of notable successes that exemplify Whittemore's spirit. In 2000, the school won the state football championship. A number of students from Whittemore-Prescott High School have been appointed to the military academies that produce our nation's military leaders.

In addition to the local entrepreneurial spirit that it has preserved, Whittemore has also maintained its small town values. Community is important to the citizens of Whittemore and neighbors make a point of knowing each other there. For these reasons, while some businesses have left the town, the residents have stayed. The city's population in 1907 was about 500. Today, the population remains at a respectable 480. Moreover, many of the same families have remained in Whittemore. Some families have inhabited this small town for as many as six or seven generations.

Madam Speaker, while many people in Michigan, and most people throughout our country, have not have heard of the city of Whittemore, I believe there is much to be admired in the city's history and character. As this small town and its citizens celebrate Whittemore's centennial, I would ask that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating this town and its past, present and future citizens on reaching this milestone and in acknowledging the city's place in Michigan's history.

HONORING THE LIFE OF YOLANDA KING

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness over the untimely passing of Yolanda Denise King, eldest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King. Yolanda King, despite losing her father at the age of 12, strived to carry on her father's legacy of equality and justice for all. Despite her family name, Yolanda King used her own talents to affect social and personal change through her lectures and the arts.

Yolanda King was born on November 17, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, where her father was then preaching. She was born just 2 weeks before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus there, leading to the Montgomery bus boycott spearheaded by her father. She was just 10 weeks old when the King family home was bombed on January 30, 1956, as her father attended a boycott rally, but she was unharmed by the explosion. She

was 7 when her father mentioned her and her siblings in his 1963 speech at the March on Washington and she was 12 when her father was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968.

After receiving a B.A. degree with honors in Theatre and African-American Studies from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, Ms. King moved to New York to earn her masters degree in theatre at New York University. She honed her teaching skills while working with young people at the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, Georgia. Many of Ms. King's stage, television and film credits reflect her commitment to social change and include portrayals of Rosa Parks in the NBC-TV movie "King" (1978), Dr. Betty Shabazz in the film "Death of a Prophet" (1981), and Medgar Evers's daughter, Reena, in "Ghosts of Mississippi" (1996). Her most recent theatrical production was "Achieving the Dream" in which she portrayed several characters in the movement for civil and human rights, and was featured during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

In addition to her rich acting career, Yolanda King also carried on her parents' legacy through her commitment to raise awareness and enhance understanding about the importance of diversity. Ms. King addressed Fortune 500 companies and the United Nations as well as religious, civic and educational groups in the United States, Europe, and Africa. She was founder and CEO of Higher Ground Productions, a California-based organization dedicated to social change and world peace by advocating diversity and unity. She also promoted awareness through her writing. She was the co-author of the book, *Open My Eyes, Open My Soul*, as well as *Embracing Your Power in 30 Days*, a step by step, daily tool for personal growth based on her very personal experiences.

Yolanda King was honored with numerous presentations, awards and citations by organizations around the country and was named one of the Outstanding Young Women of America. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. (the official national memorial to Dr. King) and was founding Director of the King Center's Cultural Affairs Program. She served on the Partnership Council of Habitat for Humanity, was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was a sponsor of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and held a lifetime membership in the NAACP. She was the recipient of two honorary doctoral degrees.

And so today I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Yolanda King's outstanding career and life achievements. Yolanda King dedicated her life to promote unity and nonviolence across the country and the world. She was left a strong and important legacy set by Dr. Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King, but ultimately utilized her own abilities and talent to inspire people from all walks of life to reach higher ground, to motivate people to move forward, and to empower people to make a difference.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV. MARJORIE KITCHELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Marjorie Kitchell, who has dedicated 40 years of service to the Christian Center Church.

Rev. Kitchell, who moved to Boulder City in 1967 to begin her work with the Christian Center Church, opened the Christian Center Daycare and Preschool shortly after her arrival. The daycare, which is Nevada's longest running licensed daycare, and the preschool have proved to be valued and trusted centers of early education. Since 1972, Rev. Kitchell has served the congregation of the Christian Center Church as the senior pastor. In addition to her service to the people of the Christian Center Church, Rev. Kitchell was the past Boulder City Police Chaplain, has served on the Boulder City Juvenile Conference Committee, was the past president and a current member of the Boulder City Ministerial Association and currently serves as District Supervisor of her denomination's churches in the Henderson and Las Vegas area. In addition to her work throughout the community, Rev. Kitchell is the author of numerous articles and a book, *My Mother's Keeper*.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Rev. Marjorie Kitchell. Her work is commendable and I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CITRONELLE MAYOR STANLEY HERRING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Citronelle, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mayor Stanley Herring, a devoted family man, was dedicated to the continued growth and prosperity of Citronelle—a dedication that was evident up until the very end of his life. Despite his months-long battle with throat cancer, Mayor Herring went to city hall each morning to attend to city business.

But, politics wasn't Mayor Herring's only calling. It was only after retiring from ExxonMobil Corp. as a technician that he entered local politics. An avid supporter of local youth and high school athletics—Mayor Herring, himself, was inducted into the Alabama Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame. He served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Memorial Baptist Church in Citronelle. In 1996, Citronelle elected him city councilman, a post he held until 2004, the year he was elected mayor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a man who deeply loved the city of Citronelle. He will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Alice Leigh Herring;

his mother, Irene Herring; his children, Sandy Fagan, Paula Leigh Callaway, and Stanley Eugene Herring Jr.; his two sisters, Frances Doyle Herring and Joyce Rios; his three brothers, Jimmie Herring, Michael Herring, and Robert Herring; and his 16 grandchildren and one great-grandchild—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO DANNY ZHU

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent Danny Zhu of College Point, NY. Danny is one of 24 finalists on the 2007 United States Physics Team that have been chosen to compete for the Traveling Team, a group of five students who will represent the United States at the International Physics Olympiad in Iran. These gifted students will show their merit against the best young scientific minds that the world has to offer.

Danny is a junior at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, where he excels at the highest skill levels. Outside of the classroom, he is heavily involved in student groups, participating in everything from the robotics club to the school band. He has reached the semifinals of the Physics Olympiad competition in each of the last 2 years and has placed in the top 10 in multiple national math and science competitions.

I am very pleased that a young man from my district could so well personify Speaker PELOSI's Innovation Agenda. It is young people like Danny Zhu and his fellow finalists that will become our next generation of great innovators: the mathematicians, engineers, and scientists who will keep this great country competitive and prosperous in the upcoming decades. I would like to again congratulate Danny Zhu on his accomplishment and thank him for his effort and hard work.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY HEALTH ENHANCEMENT AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, our wounded warriors have returned from combat with varying degrees of injury. Some of these physical injuries, such as bullet wounds or losing a limb have been diagnosed and treated since the dawn of our Republic. Others, such as Traumatic Brain Injury, TBI, have required the practices of treating veterans to evolve and adapt so that we can give our returning service members the quality of care and the quality of life they deserve.

The bill before us today is an example of how our system must adapt to these increas-

ingly devastating injuries, specifically TBI. H.R. 2199 would require that Veterans Affairs, VA, screen every combat veteran for TBI and submit a report to Congress on the number of returning soldiers that have this debilitating injury, and how we can improve upon the care they receive. Additionally, the VA would be required to establish transition sites so that those service members who are diagnosed have the ability to choose various recovery programs that are most comfortable to them.

What makes TBI such a frightening injury is that the symptoms are not instantaneous. A service member might not know if he or she has TBI until weeks after the initial jolt or blow to the head. If treatment is not readily available, then permanent brain damage and loss of motor skills and cognitive thought may be the end result.

For this reason, I am pleased that the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has taken up this legislation and continues to seek ways to better the care that our returning men and women will receive. H.R. 2199 is similar to legislation that was passed during the 108th Congress which increased research and outreach activities to service members with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD.

I am proud to serve on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and I look forward to supporting further legislation that addresses the complex needs of our Nation's veterans. As Memorial Day approaches, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the sacrifices our veterans have made to preserve freedom and how much work we need to do to properly honor that sacrifice. I believe that passing H.R. 2199 is a good first step in showing that we in Congress recognize the evolving needs of our brave veterans.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY #290

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the American Legion Auxiliary #290, in Elwood, Nebraska—a beautiful town in my congressional district.

They distribute red poppies in honor of all living and deceased veterans, with donations going to rehabilitation efforts and filling other needs for veterans. The poppies are made by patients of VA hospitals and residents of veterans homes.

As we go into the Memorial Day weekend, many of our constituents will be holding backyard cook outs, or taking the boat out for a spin, or just getting out of town for a quick vacation.

In Flanders Field, the poppies grow among the crosses, row on row. These words remind us we owe our thanks to people like the members of American Legion Auxiliary #290, those who help us remember our troops and the sacrifices they have made.

AZERBAIJAN MARKS 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLIC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in venues ranging from the Bundestag to the U.S. Congress to the streets of Baku, Azerbaijanis worldwide will mark their National Day of the Republic this upcoming week. Since achieving independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan has remembered May 28 as the date, in 1918, when the country was proclaimed an independent state, making it the first democratic republic in the Caucasus region.

Though it lasted only 2 years, from May 1918 to April 1920, this first democratically elected Azerbaijani government worked on building an independent and democratic state.

Members of the Azerbaijani Diaspora regard the date as a key one among the numerous commemorative days they observe each year.

Even when such a state did not formally exist anywhere on the world map, it existed in our hearts, our souls, and our minds, said Tomris Azeri, president of the Azerbaijan Society of America. It is this strong sense of being an Azerbaijani, which we are now free to show to ourselves and the world. And with that freedom for Azerbaijan has come growing prosperity, and growing respect, involvement, and influence in the world community.

I commend Ambassador Yashar Aliyev for his hard work and dedication. I look forward to the United States continuing a successful relationship and strong friendship with the people of Azerbaijan.

TRIBUTE TO LUCIOUS L. NEWHOUSE, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a proactive citizen from Dallas, Texas, Lucious L. Newhouse, Jr. As youth education is of great importance, I am delighted to recognize his 39 years as an educator and wish him well regarding his upcoming retirement. I would like to take a few moments to reflect on his many achievements and contributions to the city of Dallas and the Dallas Independent School District.

As the son of two educators, Lucious L. Newhouse, Jr., showed early signs of excellence, graduating as salutatorian from Galilee High School in Hallsville, Texas. Lucious then went on to obtain a bachelor of science degree from Prairie View A&M University and to star on the university's baseball team. Also to note, he obtained two graduate degrees from this same institution, a master of science and master of the arts.

Shortly after completing his undergraduate study and starting his teaching career at J.N. Irwin Junior High School in Dallas, Lucious was called to serve our great Nation as both an army sergeant and platoon leader in Vietnam. He would then return to DISD where he

taught and coached for 24 years and served as an administrator for 14.

Supplementing his 39 years as an educator, Lucious is additionally a very spiritual man and has been an active member of the community. Lucious is an avid member of the Cedar CME Crest Cathedral, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and has served as both president and vice president of the Dallas Coaches Association and Dallas Schools Administrators Association.

Lucious Newhouse, Jr., has always taken pride in his work and been dedicated to the children of Dallas. This compassionate man never failed to show that he cared for his students, his fellow teachers, administrators, and staff members. I urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in applauding Mr. Newhouse, Jr., for all he has done for Texas's educational system and the wonderful city of Dallas.

HOUSE RESOLUTION INTRODUC- TION: RECOGNIZING RACHEL CARSON

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation honoring the legacy of Rachel Carson, the ecologist and author whose courage, selfless spirit and sense of wonder ushered in the modern environmental movement.

May 27, 2007, will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rachel Carson. While we as a nation continue to feel the impact of man-made environmental challenges and consider measures to lessen our impact on the planet, it is important to remember the person who first warned us of the hazards of environmental degradation, while capturing our hearts with her love and concern for nature.

Through her tireless activism and inspiring literature, in particular her book *Silent Spring*, Carson raised public awareness about humanity's inherent relationship to nature. In exposing the dangers of chemical pesticides, Carson demonstrated how life at all levels is interconnected, from the bottom of the food chain to humans at the top.

Carson wrote her landmark book, testified before Congress and rallied support for environmental awareness and action while secretly fighting the debilitating effects of the cancer that would soon take her life. Although she preferred quiet anonymity, Carson weathered tremendous scrutiny and made a courageous stand against powerful industry interests to serve the greater good.

Though she died at the young age of 56, Carson's impact was astounding. In the years immediately following her death, the U.S. Government enacted a string of environmental laws, created the Environmental Protection Agency and banned most uses of the chemical pesticide DDT, which resulted in the resurgence of numerous American ecosystems and wildlife species.

Rachel Carson's influence continues to reverberate, now more than 40 years after her death, in the ongoing struggle to balance the needs of our society with a healthy environment.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to pass this resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF BOB BARKER

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man from my district recognized the world over for his contributions to popular culture and society. For the last 35 years, Robert William Barker has been a familiar face in a world of ever-changing television personalities as the indefatigable host of "The Price is Right."

His extraordinary television career began in 1956 with the show "Truth or Consequences," which broke records by remaining on daytime television for a remarkable 18 years. With his career in the national spotlight, he brought the program back home to Missouri, airing it live from Springfield on April 14, 1972. That same year, he also began hosting "The Price is Right." For 3 years, Bob hosted both shows concurrently—making it look effortless to his growing audience of friends and admirers.

His work would yield extraordinary results. Not only has "The Price is Right" become the longest running game show in television history, it has earned the distinction of being named the highest-rated game show of all time—a product of Bob's singular talent and tireless work ethic.

Among his other notable credits, he hosted the Miss USA and Miss Universe pageants and the Rose Parade for 21 years; won 17 Emmys and was nominated for two more; was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 2004; and was named by the Guinness Book of World Records as "The Most Generous Game Show Host" and "The Most Durable Performer" in television history.

Always a man whose popularity cut across ethnic, social, and generational boundaries, Bob's popularity soared even higher with young people after his appearance in Adam Sandler's hit movie "Happy Gilmore," for which he won the MTV Movie Award in 2000.

Another milestone in Bob's career occurred 2 years later when CBS named part of its Los Angeles headquarters "the Bob Barker Promenade" to commemorate the show's 30th anniversary. Stage 33 at CBS Television City, which is one of the most historic sites in the industry, was re-dedicated as the "Bob Barker Studio," making Bob the first performer to whom CBS had ever dedicated a stage. It was from Stage 33 that Elvis Presley made his legendary first appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," and it has been the staging grounds for "The Price is Right" during its entire 35-year run on the network.

But long before he met fame, Bob met his future wife Dorothy Jo Gideon after graduating from Springfield Senior High. Barker would go on to pursue his studies at Drury College in Springfield, and was voted class president during his sophomore and senior years.

Like so many of his generation, the events of World War II would interrupt his studies. He trained as a Navy Air Corps fighter pilot, and returned to Drury College to graduate summa cum laude in 1947. He later served on the school's board of trustees from 1977 to 1980.

Bob Barker also started his entertainment career in Springfield, hosting a radio program on KTTS Radio, where he developed his clear, reverberating voice and his instant rapport with audiences.

For the past 30 years, Bob has devoted a significant portion of his time and resources to helping improve the lives of animals, appealing daily to viewers to have their pets spayed and neutered. In 1994, he established his DJ&T Foundation, which is named in memory of his wife and his mother. The mission of the foundation is to fund low-cost spay/neuter clinics.

In addition, Bob has given millions to establish endowments promoting animal protection law at some of the Nation's top law schools, including Harvard, Stanford, UCLA, Northwestern, Duke, Georgetown and Columbia. His work has also influenced other law schools to offer similar courses.

Bob Barker is a reflection of the character of southwest Missouri, where he learned early on the importance of self-discipline, an unrelenting work ethic, commitment to family and respect for others. It's also apparent from watching "The Price is Right" that Bob enjoys people, places and having fun. Through his contributions to the causes important to him, he has set an example for people committed to changing the circumstances of those less fortunate. And he has done it with dignity and style.

In his retirement, I wish Robert William Barker continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY CAP LIMIT

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to raise the cap on civil penalties that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) currently may impose against a person or company for knowingly violating the statutes that the CPSC enforces. Currently, the CPSC is limited to assessing a mere \$1.825 million against anyone company for related violations.

This amount is entirely too low to serve as an effective economic deterrent, especially for large corporations, and to help ensure that companies follow the law with regard to safe products. For some companies, this cap amounts to little more than a cost of doing business—a figure they can just write off in deciding to follow the law, or not.

My legislation would raise the cap to \$20 million, a more realistic number to serve as a deterrent against violations and a more appropriate penalty for violations that have occurred.

Madam Speaker, raising the cap to an amount that better reflects today's economic realities will encourage manufacturers, among other things, to report promptly critical information about unsafe products, to recall defective products more quickly, and generally to comply more cooperatively with statutes designed to promote and ensure safe products in the American marketplace.

THANKING MR. PHIL NICHOLS FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement this month, I rise to thank Mr. Phil Nichols for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Phil Nichols has been an employee of the House for 31 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Phil is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to this institution. His list of accomplishments is far too lengthy to include in this tribute.

However, one major accomplishment of Phil's was his contribution to the team that upholstered the two chairs used by the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House for every State of the Union speech.

Phil's retirement is bittersweet. The House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and above and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives as we wish him many wonderful years of happy retirement.

IN HONOR OF PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS JOSHUA G. ROMERO,
UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

PFC Joshua G. Romero was a proud United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on May 18, 2007, during combat operations in Tahrir, Iraq.

Assigned to the First Cavalry Division of Fort Hood, Texas, Joshua enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character, bravery, and clear sense of patriotism.

Joshua is survived by his wife, son, father, mother, step-mother, and all of his sisters and brothers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Joshua's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and noble service to our country.

PFC Joshua G. Romero will never be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

RECOGNIZING MOBILE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT WIN HALLETT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VICE PRESIDENT BILL SISSON FOR THEIR ROLE IN RECRUITING THYSSENKRUPP TO ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mobile Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their efforts in recruiting Thyssen Krupp to build a new steel mill in southwest Alabama.

Both Win and Bill worked tirelessly over the past 2 years to recruit this world class steel company to Alabama. In an unprecedented way, leaders from across Alabama and the region came together to promote the Alabama site.

Over a century ago, steel was Alabama's "cash crop" and steel manufacturing played a major role in Alabama's industrial revolution. Now in 2007, Alabama is one of the leading producers of automobiles in the United States. ThyssenKrupp's announcement brings Alabama's steel legacy full circle.

The impact of this new steel mill will be profound. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill promises at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, paying upwards of \$50,000 a year. Construction will require almost 30,000 employees who will earn \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year. Such benefits would not be possible without the outstanding leadership of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, who in recent years has also played a lead role in other development projects including: Northrop Grumman/EADS choosing Mobile as the home for its plant to build tankers for the Air Force should the team be awarded the contract; investors choosing Mobile County as the future home of the \$600 million Alabama Motorsports Park, A Dale Earnhardt Jr. Speedway; and the RSA Battle House Tower, which is the tallest building along the Gulf Coast.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce President Win Hallett and Economic Development Vice President Bill Sisson for their outstanding accomplishments. I would like to offer each of them my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the First Congressional District for their continued contributions to the great State of Alabama.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONNA
VOLNER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Donna Volner, who is retiring from Clark County after 15 years of distinguished service.

Donna, who is from Los Angeles, CA, began her career in Missouri where she ini-

tially served as a clerk/typist for Missouri State Welfare. During her tenure with the Missouri State Welfare, Donna exhibited her tireless dedication and her great abilities and by the end of her 14 years of service. As a result of her commitment and dedication to serving others, Donna was named County Director.

Donna's work for Clark County began in the early 1990s, when she accepted a position as an eligibility worker for Clark County Social Services. In 1995, Donna transferred to the Neighborhood Justice Center, where she served the community for 12 years. After retiring from Clark County, Donna plans to continue her service to the Clark County Community as a volunteer for Clark County Social Services and at the local Ronald McDonald House.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Donna Volner. Her tireless work for Clark County has improved the lives of countless people. I thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TEX BJORKLUND

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Tex Bjorklund.

During the 1950's, Tex Bjorklund was a police officer with the Los Angeles Police Department. While on patrol, he received a call to respond to a shooting at a nearby location. Upon arriving at the scene Mr. Bjorklund discovered the body of a 7-year-old girl who accidentally had shot and killed herself with a handgun found in the glove compartment of a car.

Deeply moved, Tex began working on a way to help prevent this kind of tragedy from recurring. As a result, he invented a device that would not only allow Americans to retain their right to keep and bear arms but also keep children from hurting themselves by using firearms. In fact, Tex was one of the first people to devise what we call today a "trigger lock".

Unlike advocates of sweeping gun restrictions, Mr. Bjorklund realized gun-related problems were not the weapons themselves but rather those who misuse them. In the wrong hands a weapon can be misused by those too young to understand the deadly force guns possess or by those who mean to do us harm.

Tex saw the need for a device that would ensure firearms are operated only for their intended use. Subsequently, Mr. Bjorklund began a quest to invent such a product. Today there are hundreds of different models of locks for many models of firearms.

We will never truly know how many lives Mr. Bjorklund saved, but it is fitting we honor him today for his invention.

IN HONOR OF THE STUDENT
GRADUATES OF PARAMUS'
D.A.R.E. PROGRAM AT VISITA-
TION ACADEMY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, next week, the Paramus Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students of Visitation Academy. More than 40 students are participating in this important program that gives young people the support they need to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our Nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. It uses positive peer pressure to help children defeat the negative cultural influences that bombard them daily.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program at Visitation Academy, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Robert Aparri, Daniela Chavez, Christen Connelly, Anthony De Ceglie, Nicholas Deutsch, Atene Di Luca, Annemarie Emmert, Thomas Frey Philip Garip, David Gerald, Laiba Khan, Rosanna Luna, Joseph Maliani, Alexander Marskorian, Jesse Mills, Christopher O'Byrne, Charles Overholser, Rene Polio, Tiffany Tramontana, Joshua Victoria, Dominique Balbin, Kris Daniel Berreta, Joseph Besserer, Cassandra Di Giovanni, Patrick Estanbouli, Marco Fontana, Kathleen Forero, Samantha Frey, Alexandra Garip, Carlyn Haynes, Chanel Jhin, Eric Joseph, Seung "Ian" Lee, Melisa Ljekocovic, Adrian Luna, Santino Manocchio, Raquel Massoud, Michael Munafo, Sina Nikmaram, Dominick Paiotti, Cammy May Redling, Christina Rubino.

HONORING ANDREW BARTLETT

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrew Bartlett who was chosen as one of the 10 national winners in a Risk Management Agency sponsored essay contest for FFA members. Andrew is a member of the Merino, Colorado Future Farmers of America Chapter and he has recently been elected President of the Merino FFA Chapter and President of FFA South Platte District for the 2007–2008 school year.

Andrew's parents are Charlie and Patty Bartlett and he is following the footsteps of his father who has been a farmer all of his life. Being a successful farmer today requires business and marketing skills, knowledge of advanced technology, and knowledge of crop and soil science. Farmers face the challenge of providing consumers with the safest, highest quality food at the lowest price. Andrew demonstrated his understanding of the demands and requirements of becoming a successful farmer in his essay detailing his farming experiences.

For his FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience, Andrew planted, irrigated and harvested alfalfa hay, hay millet and winter wheat. In his essay, Andrew described his decision making process in determining which crops to plant in an area where 6 years of drought have posed numerous challenges for farmers. Andrew also discussed his decisions about the use of fertilizers and chemicals to eliminate risk and the importance of sound financial management and diversification of his crops and choice of crops that were intended for different markets to expand his marketing choices. He explained the importance of using specific and accurate record keeping to assist in monitoring his financial standing. He is aware of the need to carefully analyze each of his decisions. He also understands the importance of being vigilant in minimizing his costs while staying informed of local markets.

Andrew has an impressive awareness of the many factors involved in becoming a successful producer in today's market. Andrew's family and his FFA advisor, Mr. Todd Everhart, are to be commended for their efforts in supporting, encouraging and mentoring Andrew and for their part in helping him develop the knowledge and skills necessary for him to be successful in his first farming endeavor.

Andrew is the future for a way of life which honors the land while helping to feed the world. I am proud to honor Andrew Bartlett for his success as a Future Farmer of America. My heartfelt congratulations to him and his family.

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our veterans who have served our country valiantly throughout our history.

As we approach Memorial Day, we find ourselves in the middle of wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan—wars which continue to produce more veterans every day.

Today's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are different from others in our history.

In today's wars, insurgents launch unconventional, horrific attacks on our troops, using devices like IED's—leaving some of our troops requiring ongoing special medical attention.

It is critical that we provide our veterans with the care they need and deserve in return for their bravery and sacrifice.

When I host military mothers this week, in my district in Orange County, California, I will thank them for their sacrifices, but I will also assure them that Congress will do all we can to take care of their children.

I thank all of our Nation's veterans for their bravery, their service, and their sacrifice.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. DOCK
MONTERIA BROWN, SR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a very special friend, lifelong resident of Weldon, NC, outstanding citizen, and former North Carolina State House of Representatives, Honorable Dock Monteria Brown, Sr. In almost every household in Halifax and Northampton County, Dock Brown is well known for his dedication to community service and public education. Dock is a retired principal, teacher and basketball coach. He continues to influence the lives of thousands of area residents through his tireless devotion. On this First Congressional District 3rd Annual Weldon Constituent Service Day, I am so pleased to pay tribute to Dock Brown for such exemplary service and dedication to our community.

After graduating with a masters of school administration and supervision degree from North Carolina Central University, Dock taught and coached at Eastman High School. Later, he became the Principal of Pittman High School. He was honored as the Coach of the Year in the Roanoke Chowan Athletic Conference in 1956, 1961, and 1962 and received the highest honor in the North Coastal Plain Athletic Conference in 1972, 1973 and 1974. Dock inspired his students to pursue athletics and academics while emphasizing the value of moral character and community service. Dock often reflects on how proud he feels when former students return thanking him for his guidance.

Before his election to the North Carolina State House as Representative of the District in 1992, Dock was a community leader in Weldon. His involvement in community and civic affairs is surpassed by few. For example, he was appointed to the Selection Committee for Superior Court Judges in 1983; North Carolina Drug Advisory Council from 1975 to 1976 and Halifax County Board of Commissioners from 1984 to 1992. He was Director of the Regional L Council of Commerce from 1990 to 1992; Treasurer of the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials; and Chairman of Riverstone Counseling and Personal Development. He served on the Halifax County Health Board from 1981 to 1985 and Community Based Alternative Task Force as Chairman from 1989 to 1990. Additionally, he was an active member in local political and civic organizations such as the Halifax County Democratic Party; Halifax County Board of Elections; North Carolina Power; Halifax County Coalition for Progress; the Halifax County NAACP, and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service State Advisory Board. In addition to his dedication to North Carolina, Dock served in the United States Army in Korea for 2 years. He received an Honorable Discharge with the rank of Sergeant.

Dock has been married for over 50 years to the former Helen L. Brooks, a retired teacher. They have a daughter and son, Ivy and Dock Jr. Their son-in-law is LTC Terence Singleton and their grandson is Terry Singleton. Dock is currently a member of the Board of Com-

missioners for the Town of Weldon and has been a Deacon at the First Baptist Church in Roanoke Rapids for the past 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in paying tribute to this outstanding citizen, the Honorable Dock Monteria Brown, Sr.

IN CELEBRATION OF BETTY PIA'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague Congressman GEORGE RADANOVICH, and rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Betty Pia, a wonderful mother, advocate, and community leader.

Betty has had an interesting life story. As a native of the state of Georgia, she was born on May 29, 1917. She moved to Madera, CA from Southern California in 1965 with her husband Joe. Betty and Joe have one daughter, Nancy, who they raised in the Central Valley of California. Betty has accomplished much in her life, but she is most known for her commitment and passion for taking care of others. As owner and operator of Magic Heart Guest Home, she has been in the residential care business for over 35 years.

As a community leader, Betty has been involved in the local Women's Improvement Club, Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, and was the 2005 Grand Marshall of the Old Timer's Day Celebration in Madera. As an advocate of the Valley, Betty has been involved in local, state, and national politics for most of her life.

In Georgia she got her start in politics by serving as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's nurse and developed a personal friendship with President Jimmy Carter, who she later was able to bring to the Valley during his term in office. Despite being a lifelong Democrat, Betty has truly been bipartisan in nature as she has always put people before politics. This is evident in the fact that Betty has served on Congressman RADANOVICH's Educational Committee and has been his delegate to the National Silver Hair Congress for 12 years. Betty has actively supported California Governors that range from former Governor Jerry Brown to former Governor Pete Wilson.

Despite pleas from family and friends to slow down, Betty still continues to operate her guest home and continues to be a driving force in local politics. Throughout the many roads she has traveled, we thank Betty for the many lives that she has touched along the way. It is for these reasons that we join Betty Pia's family and friends in wishing her a blessed 90th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

VETERANS OUTREACH
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that as Memorial Day approaches, this Congress is

taking concrete action to help our Nation's veterans.

This week we passed several pieces of legislation designed to both make it easier for veterans to get access to health care and to improve the quality of that care for those who are returning home from Iraq or Afghanistan.

Sometimes it's hard for veterans or their family members to be certain as to what benefits they qualify for and how to apply for them. The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act of 2007 (H.R. 67) seeks to address this problem by mandating greater coordination between the federal and state governments on the availability of programs to help veterans. The bill authorizes \$75 million between 2007 and 2009 for intensified outreach efforts to veterans and their family members.

Due to geographical constraints, many veterans who return home will not have ready access to a military hospital within an easy driving distance of their homes. To help remedy this, Congress is taking action on the Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act of 2007 (H.R. 612). This bill extends from 2 years to 5 years the period of eligibility for VA health care for veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, regardless of whether or not a veteran has an established service-connected condition. As a result, veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will have more time to take advantage of VA health care whether or not they're awaiting the processing of a disability claim.

For many veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, access to routine medical care will not be enough. A large number of American soldiers have experienced traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a result of being injured by road-side bombs or snipers. Passage of the Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act of 2007 (H.R. 2199), of which I am a co-sponsor, will help meet the special needs of these veterans.

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish:

A program to screen veterans for traumatic brain injury (TBI);

A comprehensive program for long-term care of post-acute TBI rehabilitation at four geographically dispersed polytrauma networks site and to establish TBI transition offices at these same sites to help better coordinate the delivery of health care and other services to veterans with moderate to severe TBI;

A registry of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who exhibit TBI symptoms;

Centers for TBI research, education, and clinical activities;

A committee on the care of veterans with TBI;

A pilot program for delivering readjustment counseling and mental health services through mobile vet centers; and

An Advisory Committee on Rural Veterans to help develop recommendations on how best to meet the needs of veterans living in rural areas.

Veterans with TBI will require special forms of rehabilitative care and follow up for the rest of their lives, and this bill will help ensure they get the care and services that they've earned.

Mr. Speaker, as America pauses this Memorial Day to remember those who've gone in harms way for the rest of us, Congress can express its thanks to America's veterans by passing these bills today.

JOHN FEINBLATT TESTIMONY
BEFORE CONGRESS—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to respond to and support the testimony by Mr. John Feinblatt, Criminal Justice Coordinator for the City of New York before the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Domestic Policy Subcommittee on May 10, 2007, regarding illegal guns and the Tiahrt amendment.

First, I applaud Michael Bloomberg for his leadership with reducing crime in New York City. Crime fighting is tough and it requires strong and bold leadership to be effective.

Second, I along with other Members of Congress formed the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Illegal Guns in January of 2007. This task force was formed during the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Summit held on January 23, 2007 in Washington, DC. The bipartisan task force is solely concerned about illegal guns and crime control. Let me be clear that the task force supports the Second Amendment and believes in protecting the rights of responsible and legal gun owners. We oppose the traffic in illegal guns which presents a danger to our society.

Third, to begin to address the problems associated with crime and illegal guns, members of the task force and other Members of Congress sent a letter to the leadership of the Commerce Justice and Science Subcommittee requesting Mr. MOLLAHAN and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN to change the language in the Tiahrt Amendment.

We support providing local law enforcement agencies with the tools and information they need to fight crime, particularly getting information on gun trace data.

Lastly, day in and day out, reports are aired in local and national media outlets about people being wounded and killed by guns. I'm certain that the vast majority of those incidents are committed with illegal guns. This is deeply troubling and disheartening to me. Action is needed and it is needed now.

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS
OF SUGAR GROVE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School in Warren County, Pennsylvania are making great strides in promoting

the importance of physical activity and living a healthy lifestyle within their school's student body. As a 2006 recipient of the Keystone Healthy Zone School mini-grant, the elementary school has launched a Walking Club to incorporate nutrition and physical fitness into their learning environment.

This year, the Sugar Grove Elementary School Walking Club established a goal to cover 100 miles by the end of the school year. To achieve this, students dedicated the first 15 minutes of their daily recess to walking. Rain or shine, outside or inside, the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School kept their commitment to healthy well-being and rigorously incorporated exercise into their daily school routine.

To encourage students along the way, the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA) awarded the Sugar Grove Elementary School with a walking shoe charm for every mile mark they crossed. In addition, the outstanding leadership of the school's administrators and teachers as well as the guidance and support of local community volunteers helped to further motivate the students as they strived to achieve their goal.

On May 31, 2007 the Sugar Grove Elementary School will cross the finish line and achieve their goal of 100 miles. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me at this time in congratulating the students of Sugar Grove Elementary School for their grand achievement. I wish them all continued success in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF SHIRLEY KAY FEGAN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Shirley Kay Fegan on the occasion of her retirement after 50 years of dedicated service to the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Before rising to her present role as head of school at The Congressional Schools of Virginia, Ms. Fegan spent many years raising awareness about poverty and cultivating her passion for education.

Upon graduating from Georgetown University, Ms. Fegan traveled to Central America, where she worked with the Alliance for Progress to aid indigenous populations. Impassioned by this experience, Ms. Fegan returned to the Washington, DC area, where she developed programs through the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to support migrant laborers. Ms. Fegan then applied the skills she had developed at OEO to the District of Columbia, helping to establish the first inner city HMO. Not only did this endeavor succeed in helping those affected by the 1968 riots, but the project eventually culminated in the opening of a 63,000 square foot facility which provides medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services.

In 1979, Ms. Fegan began working at The Congressional Schools of Virginia, where she has made a tremendous impact on students and faculty alike. Her presence was felt from the start as she applied her knowledge of the non-profit field to help restructure the institu-

tion and organize a volunteer school board. After becoming head of school in 1992, Ms. Fegan launched a series of initiatives that have led to the creation of strong athletic and community service programs. She has also been instrumental in incorporating information technology into the school's classrooms.

Whether Ms. Fegan was raising awareness on behalf of minority communities, making an impact on the District's inner city areas, or helping transform The Congressional Schools of Virginia into a first rate learning institution, Ms. Fegan has always dedicated herself to the serving others.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Ms. Fegan on all of her achievements. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Shirley for her past accomplishments and in wishing her continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. HOWARD E. LEFEVRE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. Howard E. LeFevre.

Such a milestone is certainly deserving of recognition. Mr. LeFevre has been an eyewitness to some of the most tumultuous events in human history. Two World Wars, the birth and demise of the Soviet Union, the first flight of an airplane, and space travel are all examples of events that have transpired in his lifetime.

His life has been marked by his service and generosity. Service to others and service to the community are timeless American traditions and hallmarks of what has made our nation so great. Mr. LeFevre's leadership and strength of character have enhanced every organization under his care and positively influenced countless members of our community.

Mark Twain was right when he observed, "Only he who has seen better days and lives to see better days again knows their full value."

Please allow me to join his family and friends in wishing him all the best.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL STEWART NAVARRE, USMC

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30 years of exemplary service that COL Stewart Navarre of the United States Marine Corps has given to this great country.

Colonel Navarre has served in many capacities since graduating Marine Corps Basic School in 1977. He served as Rifle Platoon Commander and Commanding Officer and as the Commander of the Fifth Marine Regiment in Iraq. In 2004 and 2005 he oversaw and coordinated the training and operations of the Iraqi Army and Police in the Marine sector of

Iraq. Colonel Navarre is currently assigned to Camp Pendleton where he lives with his wife, Yana Lahanis.

As Chief of Staff for all Marine Corps installations west of the Mississippi River, he is a trusted advisor and true advocate of our troops. Over the years he has selflessly dedicated his life to injured Marines and their families by promoting community involvement, assistance for disabled Veterans, and support to troop family members.

In his 30 years of military service Colonel Navarre has proven himself an able and willing leader. He has received the Legion of Merit, an award given for exceptional service in a time of war or peace. He also received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the third highest peacetime defense award.

On behalf of the people of the United States, whom Colonel Navarre spent a career serving, I thank him for his service and commitment to the defense of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL BEN DESILETS

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LaHOOD. Madam Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD.

ELMWOOD: CITY MOURNS LOSS OF MARINE

ELMWOOD.—The city continued to grieve the loss of part of its "family" Wednesday, mourning the death of Lance Cpl. Ben Desilets, killed in action in Iraq.

"What people don't understand about Elmwood, it's a family. When we lose one person, we all lose," said Elmwood High School English teacher Cathy Meyers.

Nearly every flag in Elmwood was flying at half-mast to honor Desilets.

The 2004 Elmwood High School graduate and another Marine were killed Tuesday in the Anbar province of western Iraq, where Desilets was deployed with 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. Officials with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force in Camp Lejeune, NC., declined to comment on how he died except to say it was during combat operations.

A statement from the family stated Desilets, 21, had been behind the wheel of a Humvee when he died in the early morning hours. The other Marine was Cpl Julian M. Woodall, 21, of Tallahassee, Fla.

"He thought he was doing good," said his mother, Brenda Desilets. "I was proud of him. It made him grow up a lot."

Desilets had been in the Marines since September 2004. He joined, in part, to support his 3-year-old daughter, Kyra.

It was Desilets' second tour in Iraq.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL HOGAN OF HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 204 ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional educator in my district, Mr. Michael Hogan. For 30 years, Mr. Hogan has devoted his time and energy to the

students and families of High School District 204 in Cook County. Now, as he prepares for his retirement, I would like to thank him for his years of dedicated service.

Mr. Hogan's decision to become a teacher led him to college to complete his degree and education certification in 1978. To finance his education, Mr. Hogan took on a wide variety of service jobs, where he developed a disciplined attitude and strong work ethic that continues to guide his life. Mr. Hogan's awareness of the importance of family, friends, integrity, and career is the foundation of his professional success, and has led his colleagues and the communities he serves to hold him in the highest regard.

Mr. Hogan began his career in education as a special education teacher at Lyons Township High School, serving students who felt disconnected from their families, school, and peers because of emotional and behavioral disabilities. He provided the structure, empathic concern, and skill-building activities that his students needed to allow them an opportunity to develop trusting relationships with others and graduate from high school to become productive citizens. Mr. Hogan later became the Dean of Students in High School District 204. Again, his commitment to teaching the skills of responsible decision-making and his willingness to help individuals understand and assume responsibility for their actions resulted in a positive, life-changing experience for countless students.

For the final 15 years of his career, Mr. Hogan has served as Associate Principal, dedicating himself to his principle of "making the school work". His fairness, integrity, and meticulous attention to detail have impacted the daily lives of all those he has served: the faculty, staff, and families of Lyons Township High School.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Michael Hogan as an outstanding educator, and recognize his tireless efforts to educate and develop generations of confident, responsible, and disciplined students. He has done nothing less than an extraordinary job in preparing future generations for their challenges ahead. I thank and congratulate Michael for his service and dedication and wish him a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING THE TEXAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand before you today in celebration of a truly historic achievement by the Texas City Police Department. On February 13th of this year, the Law Enforcement Recognition Committee Foundation Board officially voted to bestow the Recognized Status Award for Best Business Practices upon the Department, making the Texas City PD the first recipient of that award in the entire state.

The Texas Recognition Program is designed to assist law enforcement agencies meet their professional obligations in an efficient and effective manner. To be eligible for recognition under this program, an agency must meet or

exceed up to 152 Best Practices Standards in all aspects of law enforcement operations, including policies, procedures, equipment, facilities, and management.

Under the leadership of Chief Robert J. Burby, the employees of the Texas City Police Department have worked hard to merit this great honor. I believe it is fitting that, as Texas City Mayor Matt Doyle remarked at the State Certification Award Ceremony on March 22nd, the Texas City Police Department will be remembered as "The Model. The First for Others to Follow."

CONGRATULATING GORDON G. MARTIN ON BEING NAMED THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER'S 2007 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gordon Martin on being named the Montgomery Advertiser's 2007 Citizen of the Year and to offer heartfelt thanks on behalf of the people of Alabama for his exemplary philanthropic service to both the city of Montgomery and the State of Alabama.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Gordon has received several degrees, including a bachelor's and juris doctorate from the University of Alabama, as well as a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University.

His dedication to public service began early. While an undergraduate at Alabama, Gordon was elected president of the student government association and was inducted into several academic and student honor societies, including Capstone Men. As a graduate student studying in Washington, D.C., Gordon and several others founded DC Cares, which has grown to be the largest volunteer clearinghouse in our Nation's Capital.

Gordon's commitment to public service only continued when he moved to Montgomery, where he now serves as vice-president of Alabama Power's Southern Division. He currently sits on the boards of more than a dozen civic groups and charities. He is chairman of the Montgomery Riverfront Development Foundation, president of the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, chairman-elect of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, and serves on the boards of Huntingdon College and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Madam Speaker, Gordon G. Martin has dedicated his life to the service of others, all-the-while being a devoted husband and father to four children. I ask my colleagues to join with me in thanking Gordon for his commitment to so many wonderful philanthropic missions.

I know his wife, Margret; his four children, Tucker, Bailey, Perry, and Lilly; and his many friends join with me in praising his many accomplishments. On behalf of all who have benefited from his good works, permit me to extend thanks for his many efforts in making Alabama a better place to live and work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY WADDELL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Waddell, a Senior Television Anchor and community philanthropist.

Mr. Gary Waddell is a graduate of Brown Institute of Broadcasting in Minneapolis, and attended the University of Minnesota. Mr. Waddell began his broadcasting career working as a disc jockey for a local radio station while in college. He was a reporter for WFLD-TV in Chicago, and covered the 1968 Democratic Convention as well as the federal trial of the Chicago Seven. In 1971, he moved to Las Vegas to work for KORK-TV as an anchor. Mr. Waddell is currently the Senior Television Anchor at KLAS-TV and has been an anchor with the station for over 20 years.

In addition to his professional career, Mr. Waddell contributes his time to many charitable events and organizations in Southern Nevada, including the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, the Nevada Senior Games, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Kiwanis Teacher of the Year Awards and the annual Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign. Mr. Waddell also is a member of the Board of Directors for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mr. Waddell was honored with the Best Television Anchor Award by the Las Vegas Review Journal's "Best of Las Vegas" poll and along with his colleague Paula Francis, received the Best Anchor Team Award in the Women in Communications Electronic Media Awards.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Gary Waddell in his efforts to help make Southern Nevada a better place. I applaud his willingness to help others and wish him the best.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RACHEL CARSON

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Rachel Carson and to commemorate her 100th birthday this Sunday, May 27.

Rachel Carson was an author, environmentalist, scientist, and poet. She was also a person with the courage to speak out against policies that harmed the environment.

In 1945, the U.S. Government was increasingly using chemical pesticides to control pests that were harming agricultural crops. Rachel Carson, living in Silver Spring at the time, was particularly alarmed by insecticide experiments in Patuxent, MD. She worried that the Government was using pesticides indiscriminately, with little regard for the damage they might cause to unintended targets, like other wildlife, or people who would eat the crops.

In 1957, her concerns became reality. Spraying for mosquitoes in Massachusetts, covering Long Island with a mixture of DDT

and fuel-oil to eradicate the gypsy moth, and a chemical war against fire ants in the South—all of these caused the widespread death of other animals in the areas.

Ms. Carson, a former scientist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a Masters degree in Zoology, and the author of two previous books, wrote a third, *Silent Spring*, about the pesticide problem. She described the issue in vivid terms—a happy town struck by a “strange blight” that stopped the birds from flying and silenced their voices.

Her message was not accepted quietly. Even the idea of the book, before it was published, was enough to cause the chemical industry, with the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to work to discredit Ms. Carson. She was called a “hysterical woman” and threatened with lawsuits. Her meticulous scientific work was described as “oversimplifications,” “downright errors,” and “scary generalizations.”

However, Rachel Carson did not back down from a fight. Even as she was battling cancer, Ms. Carson testified before Congress, stood up for her research and her work, and, with her eloquent words and confidence in the science behind them, rallied millions of Americans to her side.

Rachel Carson helped begin the modern environmental movement by helping Americans relate to complicated scientific issues. She also forced the Government to consider that even potentially beneficial practices like eliminating the bugs that ate our crops could have dangerous environmental effects. Her stand paved the way for others to join the cause. She spoke the first “inconvenient truth.”

When she died, she left a legacy for us to carry. The pesticide problem did not end with *Silent Spring*. Our environment is not safe from dangers. Agricultural run-off, sprawl and logging, and of course, global warming, are persistent threats that we must face with the same courage and tenacity Rachel Carson showed 40 years ago.

This year, Congress is prepared to meet those challenges head on. We are developing comprehensive global warming legislation to curb pollution and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

We all have the responsibility to follow Rachel Carson's example to be stewards of our environment and natural resources. We must ensure that we and the generations that follow us can, as Ms. Carson advised, “dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth.”

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF'S DEPUTY MARVIN JEROME SCARLETT

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I mourn the passing of a friend and fellow member of the law enforcement community, Marvin Jerome Scarlett of Henry County, Georgia. Sheriff's Deputy Scarlett was a patriot dedicated to upholding and defending the rule of law. He was a man of great courage, conviction and passion who lived a wonderfully fulfilling life surrounded by a loving family, close friends and admiring colleagues.

Sheriff's Deputy Scarlett was a college friend and a teammate; together we played beside each other on the football field at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida. Marvin reflected the very best qualities I would hope for in a teammate—he always put the team first and this dedication to his peers and community was a hallmark of Marvin's personality.

I mourn alongside the loving family of Marvin Jerome Scarlett, and honor his wife Latosha, and children Johnnie, Lottrenise, Lottriana, and Shi-Mon. During this difficult time, we will comfort the Scarlett family and pray for their wellbeing.

Like the God he faithfully served, this gentleman came and lived among us that we may have hope more abundantly. True to his faith, Sheriff's Deputy Scarlett would urge us to believe that his death does not represent an irrevocable finality, and he would assure us that he will live on in the good deeds he left behind. Indeed, no life could be more revered for having fulfilled his vocation as God's faithful steward. I will cherish the wonderful memories I have of Marvin Jerome Scarlett, a true friend and defender of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BAIRD

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, between May 16, 2007, and May 22, 2007, I traveled to the Middle East to attend the World Economic Forum and to visit with troops from my district now serving in Iraq. As a result, I missed a number of votes. I take my voting responsibility very seriously; had I been present, I would have voted the following:

No on the Andrews Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 364)

No on the DeFazio Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 365)

No on the Woolsey Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 366)

Aye on the Tierney Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 367)

No on the Franks Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 368)

No on the King Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 369)

Aye on the Moran Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 370)

Aye on the Holt Amendment to H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 371)

Aye on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 372)

Aye on final passage of H.R. 1585, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Roll Call 373)

Yea on H. Res. 404, providing for consideration of the H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 374)

Yea on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 409, providing for consideration of the

conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government (Roll Call 375)

Aye on H. Res. 409, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government (Roll Call 376)

Yea on agreeing to the conference report S. Con. Res. 21 (Roll Call 377)

No on Bachus Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 378)

No on Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 379)

No on the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 380)

Aye on the Kanjorski Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 381)

No on the Roskam Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 382)

No on the Garrett Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 383)

Yea on H.R. 698, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act (Roll Call 384)

Yea on H.R. 1425, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, as the “Staff Sergeant Marvin ‘Rex’ Young Post Office Building” (Roll Call 385)

No on the Feeney Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 386)

No on the Price Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 387)

No on the Sessions Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 388)

No on the Brady Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 389)

No on the Price Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 390)

No on the Doolittle Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 391)

No on the Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 392)

No on the Neugebauer Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 393)

Aye on the Neugebauer Amendment to H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 394)

No on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 395)

Aye on final passage of H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act (Roll Call 396)

Yea on S. 214, the Preserving United States Attorney Independence Act (Roll Call 397)

Yea on H.R. 2264, to amend the Sherman Act to make oil-producing and exporting cartels illegal (Roll Call 398)

Yea on S. 1104, a bill to increase the number of Iraqi and Afghani translators and interpreters who may be admitted to the United States as special immigrants (Roll Call 399)

Yea on H.R. 2399, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to combat the crime of alien smuggling and related activities (Roll Call 400)

Yea on H.R. 1722, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the "Leonard W. Herman Post Office" (Roll Call 401)

Aye on Democratic Motion to Table Resolution Raising a Question of Privileges of the House (Roll Call 402)

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES CLARK WIDER, SR.

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James Clark Wider, Sr. for his tremendous contributions to the art world and to his country. Originally from Columbia, South Carolina, Mr. Wider served his country for 20 years in both the United States Army and Marine Corps. Today he is the owner of the Southwinds Art Gallery and Studio in Colorado Springs, where he not only creates exceptional artwork, but he also educates others about the importance of art to the maintenance of a culture and civilization.

Mr. Wider's extraordinary work clearly demonstrates his love of humanity and appreciation for variety in artwork. By capturing and conveying emotion in addition to riveting imagery, Mr. Wider offers an intimate glance at bygone eras and other worlds, bringing history to life. Scenes from Mr. Wider's childhood are the basis for his "Downhome Series" while the culture and customs of the Massai Tribe of Kenya are the inspiration for his African Heritage Series. Mr. Wider has used his talent to celebrate all the positive aspects of African-American heritage. Instilling the black community throughout the country with immense pride in its history, Mr. Wider believes that it is necessary to acknowledge the struggles of African Americans, for in so doing we also I acknowledge their strength and invincible will.

Mr. Wider's positive and celebratory attitude enables him to connect with and inspire people of all races and ages. Educating generations about art, he seeks to encourage all of us to become art lovers and collectors. Mr. Wider's numerous awards and recognitions include an honorary membership in the Austin, Texas Chapter of the NAACP, life membership of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, a 1992 "Artist of the Year" Award from the Austin Chapter of the National Business League, and a listing in the premier edition of Who's Who Among Blacks in Colorado Springs.

The nation as a whole has profoundly benefited from his influence. In him, the African-American community possesses an exceptional role model and the art world has a true champion. The people of Colorado's Fifth Congressional District are privileged that this great American has chosen to call our community home; Mr. Wider is an asset to the art world and to his country, and we are profoundly thankful for his numerous contributions.

TRIBUTE TO THE POLICE UNITY TOUR

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Police Unity Tour which honors the memory and courage of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty and raises money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Over one thousand police officers from around the country have completed the tour, four hundred of whom left from the Township of Morris, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent and rode over 300 miles to the Memorial in Washington.

In May 1997 the Police Unity Tour was organized by Officer Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park Police Department, with the hope of raising public awareness of police officers who have died in the line of duty and to honor their sacrifices.

The tour started in 1997 with 18 riders on a four day fund-raising bicycle ride from Florham Park, N.J. to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington. This past year they had over one thousand riders nationwide who made the trip. Inspired by their commitment and their motto, "WE RIDE FOR THOSE WHO DIED," the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund has selected their organization to be the sponsor of the Museum's Hall of Remembrance.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Police Unity Tour on their 11th Anniversary of honoring fallen law enforcement heroes!

RECOGNIZING THE COMMUNITY OF TIPTON, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the citizens of Tipton, Kansas for continuing efforts to sustain and revitalize their community.

Most communities in rural America would like to see future generations return home and keep alive its way of life. Tipton residents are no different. They want to provide the next generation the opportunity to continue the quality rural lifestyle the previous generation afforded them. The difference is that this community knows its future is in its hands. So they have volunteered these hands to construct what is needed to attract and retain the youth who, too often, leave for the "city."

In the summer of 2003, the parents and students of Tipton were faced with the impending consolidation of their elementary school—leaving the students with up to a 20 mile bus drive and the town with one less way to attract and retain businesses and the families they employ. Although the long drive would be taxing on the students and parents, convenience wasn't the catalyst for the action that was about to take place that summer. Mayor Adriane Arnoldy was among those who knew what

losing the school would mean to Tipton. He told me, "Our parents faced the prospect of their children being enrolled in three different schools in three different towns. Losing our elementary school was not an option because we knew that as schools leave communities, so go the communities themselves."

Thinking ahead about the future effects of losing the elementary school, the town voted to create its own school—the Tipton Christian School, a private K–6 facility. Those committed hands of Tipton's residents worked together and completed the new school in less than two months with all volunteer labor. Private donations funded the cost of the new facility and continue to finance school operations to date. The construction and funding of a new school in 41 days is just one example of how this community stands up against the prevailing winds of consolidation and urbanization plaguing rural America. I can only imagine that the residents of Tipton will make sure this school succeeds in the same way Tipton Catholic Senior High School has since 1919.

During a period when small towns throughout the country have experienced the shuttered doors of a main street no longer able to keep customers in the shops, efforts like these have helped Tipton maintain an active business community. Hollerich Construction is an example of a business matching the commitment made by residents. The company has expanded its presence in Tipton, along with Great Plains Manufacturing who recently doubled the size of its agricultural equipment manufacturing plant.

Tipton residents have shown character, determination and the high value they place on family, friends and neighbors. It is their hope that these ideals will be an example to some of the troubled boys at the recently opened Tipton Academy, housed in the closed elementary school building. Boys who come to the academy are there to experience a different setting, a positive one. One way to do that is to have the boys involved in the community. They contributed to the construction of a kitchen, eating and serving area in the new community building that Tipton residents use for all sorts of community events and celebrations.

For rural communities to survive and prosper, citizens must be willing to create their own opportunities for success. Ongoing efforts to revitalize Tipton are an example of how hard work, vision and involvement can create just such an opportunity. Citizens throughout Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Tipton is a developing success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) on the occasion of its 90th anniversary this month. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the army selected

Dayton as the location to increase our Nation's air forces. Three military installations, Wilbur Wright Field, the Fairfield Aviation General Supply Depot, and McCook Field, were opened in 1917 to assist the military with aviation development. The use of Wilbur Wright Field as a government installation dates back to May of 1917, 90 years ago this month.

As the birthplace of aviation, Dayton, Ohio is proud to be the home of one of the largest Air Force installations in the world. In fact, in 1924, Dayton citizens purchased over 4,500 acres of land for \$425,000 and provided the deeds to President Calvin Coolidge for the construction of a new aviation engineering center that later became part of WPAFB. The excellent and groundbreaking work of air development at WPAFB distinguishes the base as a landmark of tremendous historical importance. Dayton has been involved in flight from the Wright B Flyer to the F-22, the current stealth fighter.

The leadership responsibilities and innovative research currently undertaken at WPAFB are essential to the success and future air superiority of the United States Air Force (USAF). WPAFB serves as the headquarters for the branch's worldwide logistics system and all USAF systems development and procurement; the headquarters for National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), the Department of Defense's primary source for foreign aerospace intelligence; an aeronautical engineering center; a major research laboratory; the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT); the second largest USAF medical center; and is crowned by the National Museum of the USAF, the largest military aviation museum in the world.

Madam Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will join me in honoring the 90th anniversary of WPAFB. The renowned work at WPAFB is considered by many as the backbone of the USAF and essential to our country's national security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was detained in a meeting in the Senate during rollcall vote 398. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge one of our key allies—the Republic of Azerbaijan—as it celebrates its 89th Annual Republic Day on May 28. After the fall of the Russian Empire, Azerbaijan proclaimed its independence on May 28, 1918. Unfortunately, the Red Army invaded Azerbaijan on April 28, 1920 preempting its reach for liberty for seventy years.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom came at a heavy price following the 1990 inva-

sion of Baku by Soviet troops resulting in the death of more than one hundred thirty civilians. Moscow's rule, however, grew weaker and by 1991 popular pressure led the country to declare its independence. On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and on October 18, 1991 the Constitution was approved.

Given past Soviet rule and the difficult geopolitical environment, Azerbaijan's determination to look westward for its political and economic allies should be applauded.

Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer the United States support in the Global War on Terror, providing airspace and airport use for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq. Though bilateral cooperation on terrorism issues between the United States and Azerbaijan predates September 11, 2001, our relations were strengthened following Azerbaijan's immediate and unwavering support in the Global War on Terror.

Azerbaijan cooperates with the United States within international and regional institutions including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and NATO's Partnership for Peace Program. Azerbaijan also works together with the United States within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM which is comprised of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The group was created as a political, economic, and strategic alliance aimed at overcoming common risks and threats and strengthening the independence and sovereignty of its member states.

During the last decade, Azerbaijan has implemented structural reforms and adopted numerous legislative changes to pave the way for further integration within the global economy. It has also been moving toward a more diversified economy that would achieve sustainable growth and meet the social and developmental needs of its population.

Since signing the "Contract of the Century" in 1994, Azerbaijan has developed its energy sources within the Caspian region to help diversify western energy supplies. On July 13, 2006 the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan main oil export pipeline was inaugurated while the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipeline is expected to be completed at the end of this month. In addition, in March 2007 Azerbaijan and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Security in the Caspian region aimed at strengthening our already strong cooperation with respect to the supply and transport of Caspian energy resources and bolstering energy security in the West.

Let us today congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on its forthcoming 89th Anniversary celebrations and continue to develop this important friendship between our two countries.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARCIA NEEL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marcia Neel, who, after serving the Clark County School District for nearly 30 years, will retire this year. She is an outstanding educator whose commitment to our community has made a profound difference to the students of Clark County School District.

Marcia currently serves as the Supervisor of the Secondary Music Program of the Clark County School District, where she oversees the music education of over 50,000 students. Marcia is a leader in the field of music education and she has served as President of the Nevada Music Educators Association on two separate terms. Marcia has also served as President of the Nevada Choral Directors Association and is a member of the National Executive Board of the National Association for Music Education (MENC). Marcia has also been recognized for her distinguished work in the classroom. In 1993, Marcia received the Nevada Music Educator of the Year Award. She was also recognized in 1993 by the Disney Channel as the National Performing Arts Teacher of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Marcia. Her passion and love of teaching have greatly enhanced the educational experience of many students in the Clark County School District. I thank her for her dedication and commitment and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING NEAL WADE AND THE ALABAMA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR BEING RATED NUMBER ONE BY SITE SELECTION MAGAZINE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Neal Wade and the Alabama Development Office for being selected as the winner of the 2006 Competitiveness Award by Site Selection magazine.

This is the second consecutive year that the Alabama Development Office has received this prestigious award. The award is being given to the Alabama Development Office based on its success in recruiting new investments and jobs to Alabama.

In 2006, a total of 586 companies undertook projects to set up operations or to expand existing facilities in Alabama. These projects represent more than \$3.1 billion in capital investment. The new and expanding businesses will also create approximately 24,780 jobs.

ADO is off to a fast start in 2007. Just this month, Alabama learned it will be the site of one of the largest economic development projects in the country. ThyssenKrupp, one of Germany's leading steel industries, announced it will build its \$3.7 billion steel plant in Alabama. ThyssenKrupp's new steel mill will create at least 2,700 new permanent jobs, and

the construction of the mill will require the services of over 30,000 workers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating both Neal Wade and all of those at the Alabama Development Office for being named the best in the Nation for 2006 by Site Selection magazine. For these and all their accomplishments, I extend my heartfelt thanks for their continued service to the Alabama business community, the First Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and to the international business community.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE GREECE IN THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to include Greece as a program country in the Visa Waiver Program. The Visa Waiver Program permits nationals from certain countries who are traveling to the United States for tourism or business to stay for 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. Currently, 27 countries are included in the Visa Waiver Program. To participate, countries must meet several criteria including reciprocal visa-free travel for U.S. citizens, secure machine-readable biometric passports, and a maximum allowable 3 percent refusal rate of U.S. non-immigrant visitor visa applications.

Of the original 15 European Union nations, Greece is the only member not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program. However, Greece has met the current criteria mandated for entry into the Visa Waiver Program, including the 3 percent refusal rate. As of January 1, 2007, Greek passports issued prior to January 1, 2006, are no longer considered valid for travel. Greek nationals are traveling with new, machine-readable passports that are produced using state-of-the-art biometric technology to meet the highest possible security standards and specifications.

Greece is a critical ally of the United States. While I hope that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security will move forward to include Greece in the Visa Waiver Program, I believe that the legislation that I am introducing today is an important step in making that happen.

Joining me in introducing this legislation are Representatives GUS M. BILIRAKIS, ZACK SPACE, JOHN SARBANES, ROBERT WEXLER, SHELLEY BERKLEY, JAMES MCGOVERN, DIANE WATSON, HENRY BROWN, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JANICE SCHAKOWSKY, DONALD PAYNE, FRANK PALLONE, THADDEUS MCCOTTER, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JESSE JACKSON, MICHAEL McNULTY, EARL BLUMENAUER, BARBARA LEE, WILLIAM JEFFERSON, PATRICK KENNEDY, SCOTT GARRETT, WILLIAM LACY CLAY, LINDA SANCHEZ, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, ROBERT ANDREWS, JAMES LANGEVIN, JOSEPH CROWLEY, and ANNA ESHOO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 364 on Andrews of New Jersey amendment on H.R. 1585, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT RYAN J. BAUM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen Marine from my district, Sergeant Ryan J. Baum of Aurora. Sergeant Baum was killed May 18th during a firefight in Karmah, Iraq.

Sergeant Baum was killed in the line of duty a day before he was scheduled to return to Colorado—where he planned to rejoin his wife Amber for the birth of his first child who they planned to name Leia. He was just 27 years old.

Sergeant Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team Airborne, 25th Infantry Division. He attended basic training in Oklahoma before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, where he met his wife. He then went on to Fort Benning, Georgia where he graduated from Ranger school.

Ryan grew up in Aurora, where he attended Smoky Hill High School and played on the lacrosse team.

Amber—who was trained as an Army medic herself—told the Rocky Mountain News that Ryan was quite passionate about his role as an emergency care Sergeant; and I would ask that the text of that news article be included in the RECORD.

Amber told the News, "He loved the challenge. In combat medicine you have to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out."

Madam Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to Ryan's wife Amber, his parents Richard and Dana, his brother Jason, and his sister, Mande. He will no doubt be missed and loved by all who knew and loved him.

Sergeant Baum served his country bravely, fighting for freedom and democracy against the forces of tyranny and oppression. Americans should never forget his service or sacrifice, and the nation will forever owe a great debt of gratitude to Ryan and his family.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, May 23, 2007]

SOLDIER "WOULD HAVE BEEN BEST FATHER"
MEDIC DIES IN IRAQ, WAS SET TO FLY HOME FOR
BIRTH OF 1ST CHILD

(By Hector Gutierrez)

When Amber Baum gives birth to her daughter, she'll also be delivering the dream her husband didn't see come true.

Sgt. Ryan J. Baum, 27, was scheduled to fly home from Iraq on Saturday to be with his

wife for the birth of their first child, whom they decided to name Leia.

"He just flipped when he found out he was going to be a father," Amber said Tuesday. "From day one this man wanted me to have his baby."

The paratrooper who was raised in Aurora never made it home. He was killed Friday, one day before his scheduled return. He died from wounds he suffered during a battle near Kalsu, Iraq, the Department of Defense said.

"He would have been the best father that God could have placed on this earth," said his wife, who is staying with her parents in Gettysburg, Pa. "His spirit is going to live through his daughter."

Amber also finds comfort in knowing her husband saved lives as an emergency care sergeant, or medic.

"You need to save a life in less than a second, and he loved the challenge. In combat medicine you had to decide a life-or-death situation in less than a second, never knowing the answer but having to figure it out," said Amber, who also was trained as an Army medic.

Baum grew up in Aurora and attended Smoky Hill High School, where he played on the lacrosse team. His wife described her husband as the typical "Colorado man."

"I'd never met anybody from Colorado, and he was the definition of a Colorado man," she said. "He loved camping, he loved climbing, he loved kayaking, boating and fishing."

Baum also had loved the military since he was a child.

He was attending college when he was informed in 2003 that he had been accepted into the Army.

"He thought it was the great thing to do, he just thought it was the right thing to do to serve his country," Amber, 21, said.

Baum went to basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., before heading to Combat Medical School in San Antonio, Texas, where he met Amber. The couple carried on a long-distance relationship when Baum went to Fort Benning, Ga., where he graduated from Ranger school with high marks.

"He was always an honor graduate, which was someone who exceeds above everybody else," Amber said.

"He was extremely strong, very physically fit."

After graduating from Ranger school, Baum was accepted into the Special Operations Combat Medic School at Fort Bragg, N.C., considered the Army's elite medical training facility.

"You could compare it to Top Gun in flight school," his wife said.

He graduated from Special Operations Combat Medic School in 2005, the year he and Amber got married. The two were then reassigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska, in June 2005.

Baum was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

In 2006 he underwent extensive medical training and preparation for his deployment to Iraq. Baum was selected to be senior instructor of the Alaska branch of pre-Ranger school.

On Oct. 7, 2006, he left for Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Baum is survived by his parents, Richard and Dana; brother, Jason; and sister, Mande.

The family has established the "SGT Ryan John Baum Memorial Fund" through US Bank. All proceeds will go to help Baum's wife and their daughter's college education.

ON THE PASSING OF BOWIE CITY
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM AUGUS-
TUS ALESHIRE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mark the passing of a man that meant a great deal to the people of Maryland's Fifth Congressional District—16-year Bowie City Council veteran, William Augustus Aleshire.

Bill's life was one of service. He served his country in the Air Force through two tours in Vietnam. He served his neighbors as a Washington, DC, police officer for more than 20 years. And he served his community as a member of the Bowie City Council—and more significantly, as an impassioned leader who always thought of others before thinking of himself.

Bill was a man that truly understood what public service is all about. Those who knew him best know that he had a fondness for costumes. At Christmas, he made appearances throughout the city of Bowie as Santa Claus. At Easter, he visited local parks and hospitals as the Easter Bunny. And he even made public appearances as "McGruff the Crime Dog" to help keep Bowie's children on the right track.

I always thought of Bill as a partner in our shared pursuit to enhance the quality of life in the city of Bowie—and I know that his boisterous personality and impeccable character will be profoundly missed throughout all of Prince George's County, Maryland.

My condolences—and those of a grateful community—go out to Bill's wife, Clara, to his daughter, Emily, and to everyone whose life was touched by William Augustus Aleshire during this most difficult of times.

HONORING MRS. JUDY HANLEY OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT 105 ON HER
RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Mrs. Judy Hanley. In June, Mrs. Hanley will retire from School District 105 after 48 years of distinguished service and leadership. Her remarkable contributions to students, colleagues, and the entire District 105 community will always be remembered and her presence will be sorely missed. As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to extend my appreciation to Mrs. Hanley for her dedication and commitment to providing quality education.

Mrs. Hanley will retire from Hodgkins Elementary School as Assistant Principal. Throughout her impressive career, she has taken an active role in the leadership of the school. Specifically, Mrs. Hanley has served on the curriculum committee, the professional development committee, and the staff development committee. In addition to Mrs. Hanley's committee positions, she has also served

as President of the School District 105 Teacher's Association. Together, these combined efforts have helped to make School District 105 a better place for staff to work and children to learn.

Mrs. Hanley's tireless work has also benefited the local Hodgkins community. She has played a leading role in organizing the local book fair and has acted as a sponsor of the annual pumpkin decorating contest—a Hodgkins tradition. In 1999, the Whispering Oak Girls Scout Council recognized Mrs. Hanley with the Woman of Distinction Award in Education and, in 2000, the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce honored Mrs. Hanley with the Millennium Award. In addition to these special awards, she was also a 1999 and 2000 Legacy Award Finalist.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Judy Hanley for her half-century of service as a dedicated educator. Throughout her career, she has shown a strong commitment to teaching and to her community. As a result of her passion, her work has significantly impacted the lives of countless students, parents, and fellow teachers alike. I thank Judy for her lifelong service to her community and wish her a happy, healthy, and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, as we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day, Congress has a duty to honor our veterans not just with our words but with our deeds. I was proud to join with colleagues on both sides of the aisle yesterday to pass legislation that will help provide our courageous veterans with the resources they have earned and deserve.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed several pieces of legislation that address some of the new challenges facing veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

H.R. 2199, The Traumatic Brain Injury/Rural Veterans Outreach, ensures that our veterans are properly screened for Traumatic Brain Injury and receive the appropriate treatment. More than half of combat casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have associated brain injuries, often due to improvised explosive devices. The legislation also expands VA resources to provide rural communities with "mobile vet centers" for mental health services and benefits outreach.

H.R. 612, The Returning Servicemember VA Healthcare Insurance Act helps ensure soldiers with mental health conditions that are often not immediately diagnosed, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, are treated by making them eligible for health care due to combat service for five years after leaving active duty.

H.R. 67, The Veterans Outreach Improvement Act (H.R. 67) allows the VA to partner with state and local governments to reach out to veterans and their families in ensuring they receive the benefits they have earned.

H.R. 2239, The Early Access to Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits Act extends eligibility for rehabilitation benefits from the Veterans' Affairs Department.

Finally, H.R. 1470, The Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act requires that chiropractic care and services be provided to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

Since January, the new Democratic-led Congress has worked to honor veterans by improving veterans' health care, strengthening benefits for our men and women in uniform today, and providing long-overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. I was proud to support the measures we passed yesterday as well as any legislation that will improve benefits and services for our brave men and women in uniform and our veterans.

IN HONOR OF TOM FAT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Fat, a dedicated civic leader in San Diego. Tom passed away on May 17, 2007 and is survived by his wife Jenny, daughter Monica, sisters Jean Ann Lai and Mable Moffatt of Sacramento, brothers Dr. Kenneth Fat and Jerry Fat of Sacramento, and two grandchildren.

Tom was born in 1940 and grew up working in the family restaurant in Sacramento, California. The Fat City chain is anchored by Frank Fat's, which became a hangout for politicians and lobbyists in our State's capital. At an early age his father, Frank Fat, instilled in him and his siblings a strong work ethic and commitment to civic involvement.

Tom graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in business, attained a law degree from Hastings School of Law and received his master's of law in taxation at New York University. He also served for 3 years as a captain in the U.S. Army.

After practicing law in Los Angeles for a few years, Tom joined his family in Sacramento to help operate their successful restaurant business. In 1976 Tom visited San Diego to research business opportunities and moved there the following year to operate China Camp, which fused Chinese cuisine with Western style cooking, and Frank Fat's, which was renamed Fat City Steakhouse—still a popular place for local government leaders to come together.

The success of Tom's restaurants assisted in the growth and development of downtown San Diego and the revival of the Little Italy community, which helped to link the area between San Diego International Airport and the city center.

Not only was Tom's entrepreneurship inspiring to all those around him, but his civic leadership was truly commendable. As an avid community leader, Tom served as the Chairman of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau, President of the San Diego Restaurant Association, Director of the San Diego Film Commission and as a member of the Little Italy Association.

He worked in the Asian Pacific Islander community to mentor youth to encourage their participation in civic affairs and the political process. Tom developed strong relationships with political leaders of both parties and built

a reputation as a consensus builder on many local issues.

Tom is best remembered for his humanitarian efforts and his enthusiasm as a tireless advocate for San Diego. His carefree nature and long white hair made him stand out in a crowd. Although he is gone now, Tom left an inspiring legacy for entrepreneurs, civic leaders, and youth in our community.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Tom Fat's family and honor his life and contributions to the San Diego community. He was admired by so many people for so many reasons, and the impact he had on San Diego will stay alive in the many positive changes he helped to achieve and the memories of him which we will never forget. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to honor such a remarkable individual.

CONGRATULATING SWEDESBERG
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY ON
THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, located in Upper Merion, Pennsylvania on their 65th anniversary.

Established in 1942 as a civilian defense in the face of World War II, the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company has become an essential and respected service institution in my district, providing unrivaled emergency response and civic services. Its first engine, a Hale-Ford 500 GPM pumper was purchased for just \$5,000. Today a comparable truck would cost around \$400,000.

Over the course of the past 65 years we have seen a distinct evolution in the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, but one thing has remained constant—the Company's volunteers have been steadfast in their service and dedication to the community.

As we look back on the past 65 years, there are some important dates to note:

May 11, 1942: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company is incorporated by Montgomery County. Its first meetings are in Michael Brodowski's Tavern and Stanley Knasiak's barbershop.

1946: Swedesburg's Ladies Auxiliary is established by company president, Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr.

1951: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company's original fire house is built on Church Road thanks to generous contributions from James Lees & Sons, among many others.

1953: The development of the PA Turnpike Delaware River Extension charges right through Swedesburg's back yard and the firehouse, along with 32 homes, are razed for its development.

1954: Volunteers and the community rally to construct the present-day firehouse on Jefferson Street.

1960s: The Junior Fireman's Corps is established for volunteers between the ages of 17 and 21.

1975: The Company establishes a Vehicle Rescue Unit with its first "Jaws of Life".

1983: Swedesburg is among the first companies in Pennsylvania to be certified in vehicle rescue.

1986: Swedesburg establishes its water rescue team with the purchase of its first boat and hours of training for 30 personnel.

1991: An addition to the existing firehouse is completed, with a larger engine room and improved radio room, a new meeting room and offices.

One of the greatest services in my district comes from first responders who are on the frontlines protecting us. They are required to balance the demands of their service with their families and full-time careers. I ask that everyone please join me in congratulating the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company and all of the men and women that have helped serve their community over the past 65 years.

HONORING MINNESOTA'S EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS—EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the emergency service workers of Minnesota. This week is National Emergency Services Week and I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary dedication and service of Minnesota's Emergency Medical Dispatchers, First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Emergency Department Nurses and Physicians and introduce this brief proclamation.

Whereas, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

Whereas, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

Whereas, the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

Now, therefore, I—KEITH ELLISON—Congressman for the Fifth District of Minnesota hereby proclaim the week of May 20–26, 2007, as National Emergency Services Week.

IN HONOR OF HARRY AND
BARBARA KRAMER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 2 true western Pennsylvania heroes,

Mr. Harry Kramer and his wife, Barbara. "Uncle Harry," as he is known to generations of campers, was Executive Director of YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee in Fombell, Beaver County for 37 years, before retiring this spring. On June 2, hundreds of campers, parents, counselors, and others touched by Harry's kindness and selflessness will return to Camp Kon-O-Kwee to honor Uncle Harry and his wife, Aunt Barbara, and to dedicate the brand new dining hall as "Kramer Hall."

Harry and Barbara have devoted their lives to helping others. Together they turned Camp Kon-O-Kwee from a ramshackle boys camp slated for closure into the country's premier camp for special needs children and adults. Kon-O-Kwee also serves as a place for at-risk youth retreats, senior citizen camping trips, school field trips, and parent-child weekend campouts. Over 17,000 campers come to Kon-O-Kwee each year, and Uncle Harry and Aunt Barbara's warm smiles and big hearts have made an indelible imprint on each and every one.

Madam Speaker, these 2 western Pennsylvanians are shining examples of what the rest of us should strive to be. They have worked tirelessly for almost 40 years to create a magical place that Uncle Harry has called "heaven on earth." And for the thousands who have passed through Camp Kon-O-Kwee—be it for a day, a weekend, or a week—it has been exactly that.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend to them my deepest thanks for their years of service to western Pennsylvania and I wish them the very best in their well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING CHANGING
HANDS BOOKSTORE PUBLISHER'S
WEEKLY BOOKSELLER OF THE
YEAR 2007

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the awarding of the Publisher's Weekly Bookseller of the Year for 2007 to my favorite bookstore, Changing Hands, in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

Changing Hands bookstore is a model for independent businesses. It has not only survived, but thrived in the age of "chain stores". Changing Hands regularly hosts teens' and kids' programs, features book signings by local and national authors, and is a meeting place for book groups. President Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, as well as Senator HILLARY CLINTON are just a few of the notable authors who have been featured at events at this Tempe institution.

Changing Hands has been a Tempe destination since it first opened its doors in 1974. It has attracted a loyal following that draws an eclectic group of individuals whose interests range from New Age to older age to teen age.

The business thrives because owners Gail Shanks, Bill Sommer, and Suzie Brazil are committed to innovation, employee participation and customer service. Without them, the community would have an intellectual void.

If one were to choose a place in Tempe to represent what the community should value,

that place would be Changing Hands bookstore.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 U.S.
PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2007 United States Physics Olympiad Team.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After taking a preliminary exam, 200 high school students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a ten-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving hosted by the University of Maryland. Five of these exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in a tremendous international competition in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Isfahan, Iran.

The 24 members of the 2007 team include: Erik Anson, Sophie Cai, Tucker Chan, Joseph Chu, Benjamin Connell, Kenan Diab, Nicholas Dou, YingYu Gao, Kenneth Hu, Rui Hu, Sunny Kam, Jenny Kwan, Jason LaRue, Allen Lin, Andy Lucas, Sarah Marzen, Kynan Rilee, Aleksandra Stankiewicz, Philip Streich, Arvind Thiagarajan, Philip Tynan, Haofei Wei, James Yang, and Danny Zhu.

I commend the American Institute of Physics and the American Association of Physics Teachers for organizing this annual event and fostering a passion for science in these students. I know that for every finalist represented here, there are numerous colleagues and parents who have provided tireless support to help them reach this point. As a former physics professor, I also am well-aware that this level of achievement is usually backed by a host of exceptional teachers dedicated to their profession and to educating individual students. I hope each of the Olympiad finalists will make a point of thanking and recognizing the teachers that have guided them over the years.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) practitioners are very important to our national competitiveness. I imagine that many of these students will become leaders in the science and engineering community in the future. While they represent the pinnacle of physics achievement in high school, I believe Congress must work to improve the opportunities in STEM education for all students, even those who may not choose scientifically-based careers. Making sure our teachers are well-equipped to teach science and math is very important in fostering the interest of future generations in these subjects because every job will soon require a basic understanding of math and science.

I am very pleased that these students take time away from their purely scientific endeavors to meet with their legislators in Washington. I believe it is very important for scientists to engage with politicians regarding the impact that science and technology can have on issues such as national security, climate

change, and healthcare. Furthermore, I hope some of these students will consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world. I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements. We wish the top 5 the best of success as they represent the United States in Iran.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF FERS
REDEPOSIT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, there is no debate over whether the Federal Government is facing a workforce shortage crisis—it is. In 10 years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

I am writing to ask for your support for a bill I will re-introduce that takes a step in the right direction. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the Federal Government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System, CSRS.

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work for the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to reentering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the Federal Government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back to government service.

Now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING CHRIS CLARK'S 41-YEAR
CAREER AT WTVF-CHANNEL 5

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Clark on his retirement from WTVF-Channel 5 after 41 years of service.

During a segment before his retirement on Wednesday, May 23, after the 6 p.m. newscast, Chris seemed surprised at the outpouring of well wishes he received via e-mail from hundreds of viewers who considered him as part of their family after all the years he had been on air. Indeed, it's rare for a person in broadcast to stay in one place for 41 years.

Chris will be remembered for encouraging Channel 5 to switch from recorded interviews to live on-site reports, making the station only the second in the Nation to use the technology at that time. But he may be more famous for giving Oprah Winfrey her first television job in 1974.

Chris, I wish you well as you head into retirement. I understand you are a self-described movie nut and that you will soon take a well-deserved vacation in Florida with your family. I hope you have many more opportunities to travel and watch movies in your unscripted life.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S
TRAUMA SYSTEMS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the important role of our Nation's trauma systems. On March 27, 2007, this Chamber passed legislation I sponsored to reauthorize the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act. This important legislation was signed into law on May 3, 2007. However, while the bill awaited the President's signature, the Nation observed the critical importance of trauma systems and the role they played in ensuring that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine received the quick and efficient health care he needed to survive injuries he sustained during an April 12 traffic accident.

I would request that this New York Times article entitled "In Corzine's Fast Recovery, Doctors Cite Timing, Grit and Luck" be inserted in the RECORD. This article outlines the important role that the Camden, New Jersey area's trauma system—and particularly its Level I Trauma Center, Cooper University Hospital—played in Governor Corzine's treatment.

[From The New York Times, May 13, 2007]

IN CORZINE'S FAST RECOVERY, DOCTORS CITE
TIMING, GRIT AND LUCK

(By Lawrence K. Altman)

An article on Sunday about the extensive medical care that Gov. Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey received at Cooper University Hospital in Camden after a traffic accident on April 12 misstated the date of Mr. Corzine's release in some copies. It was April 30, not May 1.

CAMDEN, N.J.—Dr. Steven E. Ross was about to perform an appendectomy shortly before 7 p.m. on a routine Thursday when a nurse paged him to say the governor of New Jersey had suffered an open femur fracture and severe chest injuries and was about to land on the helipad atop Cooper University Hospital here.

"Quite honestly, I didn't believe it," said Dr. Ross, who directs the level one, or most highly accredited, trauma center at the hospital. But he immediately alerted security guards and the public relations staff so they would "keep people out of my hair" and help him avoid "the distractions" that can interfere with the care of V.I.P.'s.

Dr. Robert F. Ostrum was watching the Phillies-Mets game on television at his home just across the Delaware River in Philadelphia that Thursday, April 12, when an announcer interrupted to say that Gov. Jon S. Corzine was being flown to Cooper.

In his 25-year career, Dr. Ostrum, the chief trauma orthopedist at the hospital, had repaired about 800 femur fractures, including 200 open ones. He called his colleagues and said he would come in, in part because of the patient's prominence.

So began the medical odyssey to which Mr. Corzine, 60, owes his life. He was not wearing a seat belt while riding in a state vehicle clocked at 91 miles per hour and nearly became one of the more than 43,000 people a year who die in car crashes in the United States.

Instead, after 11 days in intensive care, eight of them on a ventilator, and three operations on his leg, Mr. Corzine was released from the hospital on April 30 and resumed his official duties as governor six days later.

In their first extensive interviews, doctors and nurses who treated Mr. Corzine here attributed his amazingly fast recovery to his speedy arrival at a trauma center, his grit in overcoming severe pain to begin rehabilitation, and luck.

Mr. Corzine still needs strong painkillers that can impair judgment, but he has not allowed the doctors to disclose the drugs' names or share his X-rays or medical chart. He has also refused *The New York Times's* repeated requests for interviews.

But in lengthy conversations with this reporter, who is a physician, the medical team that saved his life revealed many new details about Mr. Corzine's injuries, his treatment and the first three and a half weeks of his recovery.

Over the first 24 hours in the hospital, Mr. Corzine received 12 pints of blood, an amount roughly equivalent to the total blood volume in his body. Most of the bleeding was internal, into muscles and the chest from 15 broken bones.

But because the blood was replaced as he lost it, he avoided shock, a key way in which immediate trauma care saves lives.

The jagged femur had torn through his thigh muscles and skin to create an open wound six and a half inches long—"By our standards it was pretty large," Dr. Ostrum said—and to repair it, doctors had to insert a titanium rod through the center of the broken bones and screw them in place.

When Dr. Ostrum found that the longest rod was too short for Mr. Corzine's femur, he added an extension. "I didn't shorten him," he recalled, smiling.

The day after the accident, Mr. Corzine's family brought specialists in trauma and orthopedics from New York University to review his case.

In the coming days, with Mr. Corzine unable to speak because of the tube connecting his windpipe to the ventilator, David Donaghy, a nurse, read his lips as one way to respond to his wishes for more pain medication or ice water.

And when Mr. Corzine could talk again after a week of semiconsciousness, the chief topics of conversation were baseball and the New Jersey Devils hockey team, the doctors said.

DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

About 500 of Cooper's 2,500 trauma cases each year arrive via the helipad, with its view of the Philadelphia skyline. As they waited for Governor Corzine to land on April 12, Dr. Ross, a trauma nurse, a nurse anesthetist, a respiratory therapist and an emergency medical technician received word that he was conscious but on oxygen because of difficulty breathing due to his chest injuries.

Intravenous fluids helped maintain his blood pressure. Emergency workers had splinted his damaged leg.

When he arrived at 7:03 p.m., the team talked with him as they wheeled him to a nearby resuscitation area for a quick examination.

By 7:10, on the first-floor resuscitation unit, Dr. Ross asked more detailed questions about what hurt him, his general medical condition and what drugs he routinely took.

"Do what you have to do," Mr. Corzine told him, Dr. Ross recalled.

An anesthesiologist injected sodium pentothal, a rapidly acting barbiturate, to put Mr. Corzine to sleep, and succinylcholine, a muscle relaxant, to allow doctors to quickly insert a tube in his windpipe and connect it to a mechanical respirator.

Hospital aides wheeled Mr. Corzine to the basement for CAT scans looking for evidence of brain damage; tears in the aorta, the body's main artery; or damage to the heart, lungs, spleen, liver and intestines.

Mr. Corzine escaped those problems. But he had a number of fractures: the femur, sternum, a collarbone, a vertebra and 11 ribs. The broken ribs were in the central area of the chest, six on the left side and five on the right. Two of the ribs on the left were broken in two places.

An enormous force is needed to break the thick sternum and that many ribs in a chest cage that is designed to protect the heart and lungs. Dr. Ross, who has treated about 100 patients with injuries like Mr. Corzine's, said the governor was "just lucky" to have escaped heart and lung damage.

At 8:30 p.m., Dr. Ostrum began repairing the femur. Aligning the pieces was difficult because the bone was broken in two places, leaving one piece floating and unattached.

"Normally, you take the hip on one end and the knee on the other and put them back together again like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle," Dr. Ostrum explained. "When you get more pieces it gets more difficult."

In the three-hour operation, Dr. Ostrum removed as much dead muscle and other tissue as possible to help prevent infection. The thigh wound needed to be cleaned in two additional surgical procedures, on April 14 and 16.

About midnight that first Thursday, Dr. Ostrum and Dr. Ross met with two of Mr. Corzine's three children, advising them that he was in critical condition.

"All of us thought he would survive," Dr. Ostrum said. He did not "paint a bleak picture," he said, adding, "but I wanted them to understand the severity of the injuries."

There were potential fatal complications: pneumonia; other infections; acute respiratory distress syndrome; blood clots in the leg that could travel to the lungs or other organs and cause emergencies, if not sudden death. "It's counterproductive to tell somebody everything's going to be fine, and then when you do have problems, hear, 'Doctor, you told us everything was going to be fine,'" Dr. Ross said. "I would rather tell them about the realities and have everybody happy when things go well."

Mr. Corzine's children were "not in any mental state to ask specific medical questions at that point," he said, adding: "They were pretty distraught. They wanted to see him as soon as they could."

After talking with the family, the doctors reluctantly participated in a news conference at the request of Mr. Corzine's aides. They said they were hesitant in part because of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which prohibits the release of a patient's medical information without explicit permission. At the time, Mr. Corzine was under heavy sedation.

ONE MORE FRACTURE

The first week was the diceiest, with Mr. Corzine, who was in an isolation room for security reasons, using a mechanical ventilator because in one small area the broken ribs were unable to help the lungs expand, creating what is known as a flail chest.

The doctors still did not know whether Mr. Corzine was paralyzed. So they reduced the amount of sedation to observe his spontaneous movements and to ask him to follow their commands. When he moved both arms and both legs, the doctors became more optimistic.

Later, they performed a fuller examination.

"We just pat them down all over to make sure we did not miss any fractures or dislocation," Dr. Ostrum said. After the swelling subsided, they found that Mr. Corzine had also dislocated the last joint in his right middle finger.

Trauma doctors measure recovery in part by what patients want to talk about and do; when patients talk about subjects other than their injuries, they take it as a sign of progress. Mr. Corzine's doctors said they were encouraged that baseball and the Devils' playoff run were among his favorite topics.

At Cooper, doctors typically take turns caring for trauma patients every day. But Dr. Ross said that as the director, he wanted "to keep an eye on things," so he accompanied the duty doctor on daily rounds, a move that could mean stepping on a colleague's toes.

"When one attending surgeon looks over another attending physician's shoulder, they get irritable," Dr. Ross said, adding with a smile, "because we all know everything."

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

Once he was off the ventilator, Mr. Corzine read several newspapers each day, the doctors said, but he did not do office work in the hospital.

In considering when Mr. Corzine could resume his official duties, the two main doctors—along with Dr. Michael E. Goldberg, the anesthesiologist who controlled his pain medication—discussed the timing and criteria among themselves and with members of the governor's staff, state lawyers and the governor's personal physician, who declined to be identified.

They considered what criteria might apply to the return to work of lawyers and business executives, or of physicians like themselves who care for critically ill patients.

Paramount was the worry that Mr. Corzine's pain medication could impair his thinking.

So they interviewed him, informally testing his memory. They discussed sports and current affairs. He said he was less familiar with South Jersey than the central and northern areas. The doctors were satisfied that he was absorbing the information and asking appropriate questions.

"We gave him specific advice on how much we want him to limit his formal schedule," Dr. Ross said. "We pushed the window back until he and we felt that he could respond if

somebody needed him at 3 o'clock in the morning for an emergency."

The doctors said Mr. Corzine seemed lucid, coherent and sharp. "You can't tell he is on any medication at all," Dr. Ostrum said.

After visiting Mr. Corzine at Drumthwacket, the governor's mansion in Princeton, on May 4, Dr. Ross decided that as a New Jersey resident he was "comfortable with him making executive decisions on my behalf."

Yet Mr. Corzine erred describing a broken bone in an interview conducted last Sunday and broadcast the next morning, the day he resumed his official duties. Speaking on NBC's "Today" show, Mr. Corzine said he had broken his tibia, the shin bone, not his femur.

EVERY TIME THEY COUGH

The main rehabilitation goal is for Mr. Corzine to restore his leg motion, then improve its strength and endurance. He uses arm crutches, instead of standard ones, to avoid aggravating his ribs.

He has three daily physical therapy sessions and is scheduled for monthly checkups through the summer. The doctors plan to monitor X-rays periodically to determine how well his femur is healing and when he can put weight on his leg.

(After Mr. Corzine underwent an outpatient checkup Friday, his office issued a statement saying all was going well.)

Mr. Corzine still is not out of the woods, Dr. Ostrum said. A possible complication is osteomyelitis, a serious bone infection. Also, rib fractures are generally painful for weeks.

"You can fix every bone in their pelvis and both their legs, and they will come back and complain about ribs every time they take a deep breath, every time they cough, every time they roll over in bed," Dr. Ostrum said.

Mr. Corzine, who has pledged to educate others about wearing seat belts, has said he remembered getting into the helicopter but virtually nothing about the first eight days in intensive care.

That was good news to Dr. Ross. The drugs that Mr. Corzine received in intensive care are the same that patients may receive when undergoing procedures like a colonoscopy, to ease their discomfort.

"One effect of the drugs is amnesia," Dr. Ross said. "We think it's a good thing that patients don't remember what they go through in the I.C.U."

HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, while I have pushed for a stronger U.S.-Vietnam relationship, I have also consistently said that this relationship depends on Vietnam's ability to make progress towards democracy and respect for human rights.

Since Vietnam joined the WTO in January, it has engaged in the largest crackdown on nonviolent pro-democracy activists in years. I believe that we need to judge Vietnam on the progress it makes, but it is clear to me that Vietnam is headed in the wrong direction on democracy and human rights.

As such, I am introducing a resolution condemning the recent convictions of prodemocracy activists and expressing concern over the future of the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relationship.

I hope that this will serve as a wake-up call. I have been a consistent friend to Vietnam,

but I cannot compromise my support for human rights. I strongly urge the Government of Vietnam to uphold the basic rights and freedoms granted by Vietnam's own constitution and international commitments.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people and Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire in 1918. Though the Azerbaijan Republic later succumbed to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan achieved a number of measures on state-building, armed forces, education, economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 as Azeris began gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared anew their independence.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, their Constitution was approved.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer our United States unconditional support in the war against terrorism, providing use of its airspace, airports, and troops for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan works with the United States regionally through the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova), to prevent illegal trafficking and to secure borders.

Azerbaijan contributes significantly to the diversification of the western energy supply. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, an initiative supported by the Clinton and Bush administrations, reached a milestone when its first oil reached the Mediterranean Sea on May 28, 2006. The following March, the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding—designed to increase the level of cooperation between our two nations—with Azerbaijan to engage in high level dialogue on energy security in the Caspian region.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the celebration of Republic Day, and I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO GIVE D.C. CITIZENS A PLACE IN STATUARY HALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of States are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of DC residents. This bill is important to ensure equal treatment for the residents of the District of Columbia with the residents of the 50 States who already have statues representing them in Statuary Hall.

On August 10, 2006, the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities began the process of creating the two statues to be placed in Statuary Hall when the Commission chose Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant as the two prominent residents whose statues would represent the District of Columbia. The Commission also hired two Washington area sculptors, Steven Weitzman and Gordon Kay, to work on the sculptures of Frederick Douglass and Pierre L'Enfant and they are scheduled to complete their work later this year.

Douglass, (1818–1895), was born a slave in Maryland and became a District resident in 1870. He held diplomatic and District appointments and is considered to be the Father of the Civil Rights Movement. Douglass also displayed his talents as an orator and journalist throughout his life here. His home in the District of Columbia is a national monument which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

L'Enfant, (1754–1825), an architect, engineer and soldier came from France to serve in the American Revolution. George Washington chose L'Enfant to design the new federal city of Washington D.C. He became a US citizen and spent the remainder of his life in D.C. implementing his plan and making D.C. the beautiful city it is today.

The District of Columbia was born with the Nation itself 206 years ago. Throughout these two centuries the city has created its very own rich and uniquely American history. Congresswoman NORTON said, "It goes without saying that the almost 650,000 American citizens who live in the Nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the Nation's Capitol as citizens who live in the 50 states have long enjoyed. That when we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 States, we undermine the Nation's efforts to spread full democracy around the world. While DC residents have not yet obtained the same political equality and voting rights as the citizens of the States, they have all the responsibilities of the States, including paying all Federal taxes and serving in all the Nation's wars." Norton said, "Today when our residents are serving in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol." There are more than 100 soldiers still serving in Iraq from Specialist Dent's 547th Transportation Company.

"The statues would offer District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all

other citizens experience when they come to their Capitol—the opportunity to view memorials that commemorate the efforts of deceased local residents who have made significant contributions to American history,” Norton said.

TRIBUTE TO VALPARAISO HIGH SCHOOL AND THOMAS JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I take this time to recognize Valparaiso High School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School for their involvement in the 23rd Annual Science Olympiad National Tournament. Both schools took 11th place in their divisions at the National Science Olympiad competition held in Wichita, KS. Valparaiso High School won medals in four events by finishing among the top six for that event while finishing in the top 10 in 10 of the tournament's 23 events.

The Science Olympiad began when Dr. Gerard J. Putz, Regional Science Consultant for Macomb County Intermediate School District in Michigan, decided to share the Science Olympiad program with Macomb County educators on March 29, 1982. The invitation was prompted by an article published in *The Science Teacher* in December 1977. After a few successful tournaments, Dr. Putz was convinced to share the program with the rest of the Nation, so the Science Olympiad program was presented to the Council of State Science Supervisors at the National Science Teachers Conference in Boston in 1984.

The mission of the Science Olympiad is “to promote and improve student interest in science while improving the quality of K–12 science education throughout the nation.” The purpose is to bring science to life and show how it works, to emphasize problem solving aspects, and to understand all of its concepts. The Science Olympiad teaches teamwork and cooperative learning strategies and promotes high levels of achievement and a commitment to excellence.

The 2007 Science Olympiad team from Valparaiso High School consists of: Lani Rush, Laurel Peterson, Sonia Phadke, Kristin Engerer, Katie Mika, Kate Sanders, Ruth Sanders, Rocio Rodea, Melissa Barrie Lehman, Ajay Major, Pat Skelton, Jon Gold, Mak Hozo, Schuyler DeArmond, Jeff Rinkenberger, Joe Kaminski, Ethan Kruse, Evan Gootee, and Gianni Galbiati. This team was under the outstanding guidance of coaches: Jim Young, Kristen Philipchuck and Kelly Woods. Several of these students received medals for their outstanding achievement. In Ecology, Jon Gold and Laurel Peterson received fourth place medals. Evan Gootee and Ruth Sanders received fourth place in Robot Ramble. The fifth place medal awarded for Entomology was given to Jon Gold and Lani Rush. Also taking fifth place medals in the subject of Write It, Do It were Ethan Kruse and Kate Sanders.

The Thomas Jefferson Middle School Science Olympiad team of 2007 consists of: Kati Manning, Jon Sherrick, Joe Galbiati, Julia Young, Matt Kerner, Kathryn Dalzotto, Josh

Bartusch, Chris Haller, Karl Rinkenberger, Katalin Hartman, Alex Robinson-Norris, Maddie Woods, Katelyn Neis, Christian Briggs, and Jesse Bunche, as well as student alternates: Brian Kingsbury, Adam Alamillo, Roshni Dhoot, Bennet Sanders, Cam Haskett, Nick Hartmann, and Daniel Karr. Guiding these exceptional students were coaches: Richard Bender, Carol Haller, Bill Dalzotto, Gwenn Rinkenberger, Mary Faith Dalzotto, Becky Jurgens, Paul Huang, Lynda Galbiati, Diane Bernhardt, Molly Joll, Linda Cronk, and Mike Haller.

Several members of the Thomas Jefferson Middle School team were awarded medals for superior achievement. Kathryn Dalzotto and Katelyn Neis won third place in Anatomy. Kati Manning and Kathryn Dalzotto also took a third place medal for Wheeled Vehicle. A fourth place medal was awarded to Chris Haller and Karl Rinkenberger for their Balloon Launch Glider. For Mission Possible, Chris Haller, Kati Manning, and Katalin Hartman all took fifth place medals. Roads Scholar brought Jon Sherrick and Christian Briggs sixth place medals.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Valparaiso High School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School on their great achievement at the 23rd Annual Science Olympiad Tournament. I wish them continued success. These intelligent young students possess the work ethic and dedication that will make them successful leaders throughout their bright futures. I hope the rest of my colleagues will join with me in applauding the Science Olympiad teams for their commendable efforts.

TRIBUTE TO BILL WHITE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud today to congratulate the Honorable Bill White, the distinguished mayor of my hometown of Houston, TX, on his receipt of the 2007 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Mayor White, who has a long history of public service as mayor and, previously, as Deputy Secretary of Energy of the United States, earned this prestigious award because of his heroic work in assisting victims of Hurricane Katrina. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, nearly 150,000 evacuees came to Houston to find temporary housing. Mayor White established numerous important programs following these hurricanes that gave evacuees the badly needed temporary assistance they needed to get back on their feet.

In September 2005, Mayor White established a program giving emergency prescriptions and free medication to evacuees who could not afford to purchase them on their own. Mayor White also helped establish the Houston Katrina/Rita Fund, which provided evacuees assistance with groceries, baby care products, and other necessities. The mayor also worked tirelessly with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a formalized housing program for evacuees and to transition tens of thousands of evacuees from hotel rooms to apartments.

All of the extraordinary work done by Mayor White and others helped get tens of thou-

sands of hurricane evacuees back on their feet. Already, many of the evacuees who stayed temporarily in Houston have returned to their permanent places of residence. Many of the 300,000 evacuees remaining in Houston are in the process of acquiring the stable employment and housing that will allow them to return home.

Without Mayor White's extraordinary leadership, the successful transition of untold thousands of victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita would not have been possible. Indeed, without his leadership, thousands of people would have been left temporarily homeless and many of the most vulnerable could have easily lost their lives.

In this situation, Mayor White's leadership was not without risk. Over the past 2 years, the mayor has frequently faced criticism for using the city's resources to help those who have come from the Gulf Coast in dire need of assistance. Yet, in the face of such risks, Mayor White has unflinchingly done what is just and right for those innocent victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award is one of the most prestigious honors that can be earned by our public servants. With his receipt of this award, Mayor White joins an extraordinary group of recipients that has included Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and several of my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. Congress. Mayor White's heroic actions in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita certainly merit his inclusion in this select group.

I applaud Mayor White and all of my fellow Houstonians for their terrific work in helping those victims of horrific natural disasters in their time of greatest need. I congratulate Mayor White on his receipt of the prestigious Profile in Courage Award, an award that is very well deserved.

BRADY CARTER WOODHOUSE
MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brad Woodhouse formally of my staff and his wife Jessica on the birth of their first child, Master Brady Carter Woodhouse. Brady was born on May 23, 2007, and weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces. Faye joins me in wishing Brad and Jessica great happiness upon this new addition to their family. A Raleigh native, Brad served as my Agriculture Legislative Assistant, Senior Legislative Assistant and press secretary and will always remain a member of Team Etheridge.

As a father and grandfather, I know the joy, pride, and excitement that parents experience upon the entrance of their child into the world. Representing hope, goodness, and innocence, a newborn allows those around him to see the world through his eyes as a new, fresh place with unending possibilities for the future. Through a child, one is able to recognize and appreciate the full potential of the human race. I know Brad and Jessica look forward to the changes and challenges that their new son will bring to their lives while taking pleasure in the

many rewards they are sure to receive as they watch him grow.

I welcome young Brady into the world and wish Brad and Jessica all the best as they raise him.

**SUPPORT FOR DR. HALEH
ESFANDIERI**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on December 30, 2006, Dr. Haleh Esfandieri, a prominent Iranian-American scholar, was in Iran to visit her sick 93-year-old mother when she was stopped by the Iranian authorities.

What followed was nearly 5 months of a series of intense interrogations and pressure tactics where she was harassed, threatened, and forced to make false statements against her employer, the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. On May 8, she was again detained and imprisoned.

Her arrest and detention has angered analysts, human rights groups and lawmakers throughout the world. Yet still, the Iranian regime refuses to release her, claiming she is a spy who was plotting to overthrow the Iranian government.

I would like to submit a statement issued from the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars on May 21, 2007 for the record.

Madam Speaker, these charges are a farce. Professor Esfandieri is an accomplished scholar of Persian literature, language and history who taught at Princeton University before becoming the Director of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars Middle East Program. Her husband, Mr. Shaul Bakhash, is a professor at George Mason University of Fairfax, VA. The Woodrow Wilson Center is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose work is to research and foster dialogue within the scholarly world on current and future public policy issues.

Dr. Esfandieri's tireless dedication to teaching and advocating on behalf of Iran is clear. She has focused on building bridges and opening doors for peace in the Middle East. She has sought to facilitate and strengthen Iranian-American relations through numerous seminars, lectures and workshops with educators, policymakers and groups from both countries and has pressed wider freedoms to communicate about our common bonds and negotiate over our disagreements.

Like thousands of other Iranians living abroad, Professor Esfandieri is an academic who took a personal trip to see her family. If she as one individual scholar threatens this regime so much that they have to interrogate her for almost five months and detain her in a notorious prison cell known for human rights abuses, then one has to assume this regime is desperate to retain whatever control it can.

Today, the Iranian leadership's lack of courage and conscience is as clear as it is disappointing.

It is evident that this regime is criminalizing scholarly work of any kind, despite the fact that Iran's very own history is filled with centuries of scholarly research and discovery. This regime's egregious decision to imprison

Dr. Esfandieri reflects a deepening departure from the values and ideals the Iranian people have historically prided themselves on.

Iran's renowned nationalist Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq once said "There is no better way to govern Iran than democracy and social justice!"

Professor Esfandieri should be released immediately. Every day she is so unjustly detained, Iran proves the case of its detractors and makes it all the more difficult for institutions like Dr. Esfandieri's Wilson Center to treat the Iranian people with the respect that should be afforded to an historic civilization and citizenship of 70 million people.

**STATEMENT ON THE ARREST IN TEHRAN OF
HALEH ESFANDIARI, DIRECTOR OF THE WOODROW
WILSON CENTER'S MIDDLE EAST PRO-
GRAM**

Haleh Esfandieri, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a dual Iranian-American national, was arrested in Tehran on May 8 and incarcerated in the Evin Prison.

The background to this entirely unjustified arrest is as follows:

TIME LINE OF EVENTS

December 21, 2006, Haleh Esfandieri, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a dual Iranian-American national, traveled from Washington D.C. to Tehran, Iran to visit her 93-year-old mother for one week.

On December 30, 2006, on her way to the airport to catch a flight back to Washington, the taxi in which Dr. Esfandieri was riding was stopped by three masked, knife-wielding men. They threatened to kill her, and they took away all of her belongings, including her Iranian and American passports.

On January 3, when applying for replacement Iranian travel documents at the passport office, Dr. Esfandieri was invited to an "interview" by a man from Iran's Ministry of Intelligence.

Beginning on January 4, she was subjected to a series of interrogations that stretched out over the next six weeks, sometimes continuing for as many as four days a week, and sometimes stretching across seven and eight hours in a single day. Dr. Esfandieri went home every evening, but the interrogations were unpleasant and not free from intimidation and threat.

The questioning focused almost entirely on the activities and programs of the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center. Dr. Esfandieri answered all questions fully; when she could not remember details of programs stretching back five and even eight years, the staff at the Wilson Center provided her all the information requested. As a public organization, all Wilson Center activities are on the public record. Repeatedly during the interrogation, she was pressured to make a false confession or to falsely implicate the Wilson Center in activities in which it had no part, but she refused.

On Friday, January 15, in the third week of interrogations, Dr. Esfandieri was told (misleadingly as it turned out) the questioning was over. On January 18, the interrogator and three other men showed up at Dr. Esfandieri's mother's apartment. Dr. Esfandieri was taking a nap and was startled to wake up and see the door to her bedroom open, her privacy violated, and three strange men, one of them wielding a video-camera, staring into her bedroom.

On February 14, the lengthy interrogations stopped.

On February 17, Haleh received one threatening phone call, and then she did not hear

anything from her interrogators for ten weeks.

On February 20, Lee Hamilton, president and director of the Wilson Center, wrote to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad asking that Dr. Esfandieri be allowed to travel. However, President Ahmadinejad did not reply to the letter.

At the end of April or early May, she was telephoned once again and invited to "co-operate." In effect, she was being asked to make a confession. She refused to make the false statements.

On Monday, May 7 she was summoned to the Ministry of Intelligence once again. When she arrived for her appointment on Tuesday morning, May 8th, she was put into a car and taken to Evin prison. She was incarcerated and was allowed only one phone call to her mother.

On May 9 she called her mother asking her to bring her clean clothes and her medicine. Her mother delivered the small package at Evin Prison on May 10, but was not allowed to see her.

On May 12, the hard-line daily "Kayhan" in an article accused Dr. Esfandieri of working with the U.S. and Israeli governments and with involvement in efforts to topple Iran's Islamic regime.

On May 15, Iranian judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi said that Dr. Esfandieri was being investigated for crimes against national security and that her case was being handled by the Intelligence Ministry.

On May 15, Haleh made a brief telephone call to her mother.

On May 16, Haleh's family retained the legal services of Nobel Peace Laureate Shirin Ebadi to represent her.

On May 17, in an interview with Washington Post Staff Writer Robin Wright, Shirin Ebadi indicated that the Iranian government has rejected her request to represent Dr. Esfandieri. She also noted the court refused information on the legal charges against Dr. Esfandieri, and denied her legal team the ability to see Haleh.

On May 21 state-run television broadcasts in Iran indicated that Haleh is being charged with seeking to topple the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Our efforts to obtain Haleh's release will continue and will be redoubled. She will be in our thoughts and prayers every day.

**TRIBUTE HONORING LIEUTENANT
MARTIN CUELLAR, JR., ON HIS
RETIREMENT**

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Martin Cuellar, Jr., on his retirement from the Texas State Department of Public Safety, where he served in law enforcement for the past 25 years.

Lieutenant Cuellar has an extensive background in criminal justice and has trained with the Webb County Basic Peace Officer Training Academy, and the Department of Public Safety Trooper Academy. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and earned an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Laredo Community College. His criminal justice background helped him serve as a lieutenant with the Department of Public Safety in the narcotics service as a part of the Directed Intelligence Group, and as deputy sheriff with the Webb County Sheriff's Department.

Lieutenant Cuellar has worked in open and covert investigations resulting in seizures of thousands of pounds of narcotics throughout the State of Texas. He also has worked in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies in cases involving murder, kidnappings, and extortion, and in international investigations regarding shipment of narcotics with Federal and State law enforcement agencies in the United States and Mexico. He has also been recognized by the Department of Defense and the United States Army for his assistance in the return of a wounded U.S. soldier to the United States.

While working in law enforcement, he met his wife, Veronica Cuellar, who is employed with the United States Probation Office. They have two beautiful children, Zachary and Casey, both of whom currently attend St. Augustine School in Laredo, Texas. I wish him and his family the best in his well-deserved retirement from an accomplished and highly regarded law enforcement career.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the dedication and commitment of Lieutenant Martin Cuellar, Jr., to the law enforcement community in south Texas.

HONORING MICHAEL OAKLEY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the bravery of Mr. Michael Oakley of Savannah, Tennessee. On the night of April 13, 2005, Mr. Oakley showed the highest form of human compassion when he risked his own life to save an unknown motorist trapped in a vehicle that was engulfed in flames following a traffic accident. Despite the extreme heat of the fire and suffering from severe burns, Mr. Oakley returned to the wrecked sport utility vehicle multiple times, determined to save another man's life. Thankfully, Mr. Oakley was successful.

In honor of this astounding act of selflessness, Mr. Michael Oakley was awarded the Carnegie Medal for Extraordinary Civilian Heroism. This award is given by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission and Mr. Oakley was one of only 19 to receive this recognition. He was chosen for this award due to his outstanding courage which should stand as an inspiration to all men and women across Tennessee and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in both thanking and congratulating Mr. Michael Oakley for his heroism; he is indeed, a worthy recipient of this outstanding honor. And may God bless all of the Michael Oakleys of America.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER CHARLIE RAY PARKER, JR.

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an ex-

ceptional officer in the United States Army, CWO5 Charlie Ray Parker, Jr., upon his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, first as an enlisted Army private, then as a non-commissioned officer, and finally as a commissioned warrant officer, Warrant Officer Parker personified the seven Army values, particularly those of duty, integrity, respect, and selfless service across the many missions the Army asked him to execute. It is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments. I commend his superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Beginning his career in March 1967, Warrant Officer Parker entered into active duty from the State of Virginia as an enlisted soldier. He achieved the rank of staff sergeant while serving as a motor sergeant in the First Battalion (Airborne), 325th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Staff Sergeant Parker served in the 82nd Airborne Division from March 1970 until receiving his appointment as a warrant officer in March 1977. His formula for success was simple, "work hard to accomplish your mission and take care of your soldiers," a formula he still follows today.

In June 1987, then Chief Warrant Officer 3 Parker served as the staff maintenance technician for the Logistic Readiness Division, 200th Theater Army Materiel Management Center in Zweibruecken, Germany. He was the principal automotive maintenance technical advisor to the Commander. As such, Warrant Officer Parker was singularly responsible for the increased readiness status in the 600 units of United States Army, Europe. His total dedication to this vital mission was a key to maintaining theater war fighting capability and allowed for the smooth deployment of U.S. V and VII Corps units to Operation Desert Storm in Southwest Asia.

By December 2000, Warrant Officer Parker was the Plans and Training Development Branch Chief, managing the development, implementation, and evaluation of training for the Warrant Officer Candidate Course, Staff Course, and Senior Staff Course for active and reserve component Warrant Officers. He also laid the groundwork for the Warrant Officer Mentorship Program, which is now implemented throughout the United States Army. As the most senior warrant officer in the Army Ordnance Corps, he used his position to ensure African-American soldiers were provided the same opportunities due every soldier who attended Army Warrant Officer Career Courses. His genuine concern for the welfare and development of warrant officers and candidates proves an enduring inspiration to all.

Most recently, as the senior evaluator for the \$1.6 billion combat logistics support system—Global Combat Support System—Army (Field and Tactical), Warrant Officer Parker developed an operational test and evaluation strategy for the Enterprise Planning Solution designed to ensure enterprise elements such as supply, maintenance, property, finance, and task organization processes are adequately evaluated in accordance with public law. This new system will transform Army logistics by ensuring direct support of Joint Force and Army military operations ranging from garrison duty to expeditionary deployments, ultimately reducing the need for forward deployed logisticians.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Chief Warrant Offi-

cer 5 Parker for his commitment, sacrifice, and contribution throughout these 40 years. I congratulate him on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career.

IN MEMORY OF MAYOR JOHN REDDING, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the memory and celebrate the life of Mayor John Redding, Jr., of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. John Redding passed away on Monday, May 21, from complications from heart surgery. It is with sadness, but with fond memories and the promise of his ascension to a better place that I honor John Redding's life and memory today.

As a resident of Chambersburg for 51 years, Redding was the very definition of public service. For almost all his life, John was an active member of his community, serving on the Chambersburg Board of Directors, as chairman of the Letterkenny Industrial Development Authority, as a council representative, and later as mayor of Chambersburg Borough, his hometown and the community to which he dedicated his life.

As a man of deep faith, brave courage and impassioned loyalty, Redding made his community a better place to work and live. The outpouring of support from his friends and neighbors upon his passing is a testament to the way he lived his life and a sign that the legacy he left on Chambersburg and the whole of Franklin County will not be forgotten.

More than this, it is my privilege to have known John personally and to have called him my friend. He and my family worked closely over 30 years to make Franklin County a better place to live and work and his effort was not in vain. Franklin County continues to be a showcase for economic investment, growth and opportunity in central Pennsylvania. Its success bears the mark of John's tireless efforts.

John was a pillar of dedication, commitment and leadership. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE SERVICES ACT OF 2007

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Child Care Services Act of 2007 which reaffirms the Federal Government's commitment to helping children and families as they recover from acts of terrorism, major disasters or other emergencies.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, more than 3,000 licensed child care facilities along the Gulf Coast were damaged or destroyed. Parents needed a safe place to leave their children while working, looking for employment, cleaning debris from their homes, filing

claims with their insurance companies or working with Federal, State and local agencies to address their disaster-related needs.

However, while 3,045 licensed child care centers were eligible, just 10 centers in Louisiana and only one in Mississippi received Federal assistance. There were 1,690 eligible centers in my home state of Mississippi alone. I understand that numerous centers are still going through the appeals process with FEMA and have yet to rebuild and reopen.

I introduced this legislation to amend the Stafford Act to ensure that emergency child care is recognized as a "critical service" in the aftermath of a terrorist attack, major disaster or other emergency.

While provisions of the Stafford Act provide assistance to private nonprofit facilities that provide critical services, emergency child care is not listed as one. Passage of this measure will designate emergency child care as a critical service and let families know that in the time of a disaster, the need for childcare will not be forgotten.

In an effort to rebuild and restore child care operations in my home State of Mississippi, the Mississippi Early Care and Education Infrastructure Initiative was formed by Mississippi State University in partnership with Chevron, Save the Children, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The goals of the Initiative were to quickly reopen the thousands of child care centers damaged or destroyed by the hurricanes, to retrain staff and upgrade curriculum materials and play equipment, and to prepare for future emergencies.

Further, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services approved child care waivers for \$60 million so that parents were provided with vouchers for 60 days for much-needed child care services while working or looking for work. These waivers lifted Federal requirements for State matching funds and went directly to the States to administer their Child Care and Development Funds. There was a huge bottleneck with this process and numerous centers and parents were unaware of these resources. Further, many parents that received these vouchers were unable to find operational child care facilities.

I applaud the efforts of the Initiative fanned in Mississippi and am thankful that the Department of Health and Human Services responded quickly to the affected states. June 1st marks the beginning of 2007 hurricane season. We must be sure to let families know that the Federal Government is doing its part to ensure that critical services are available in the event of another large-scale disaster or even a major terrorist attack. Enactment of the Emergency Child Care Services Act is the way to do it.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1427) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related

Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes, with Mr. PASTOR (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act, and commend Chairman BARNEY FRANK for his hard work to develop a comprehensive, bipartisan government-sponsored enterprise, GSE, reform bill.

This legislation will restore accountability by strengthening federal oversight of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks. It will consolidate regulation of the housing GSEs under the Federal Housing Finance Agency, a new, independent agency. The Federal Housing Finance Agency will be authorized to adjust the enterprises' risk-based capitol and even limit the size of their portfolios for a limited time, if necessary to ensure their safety and soundness.

H.R. 1427 also establishes an Affordable Housing Fund, which will be financed by a required contribution from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac of only 0.012 percent of their total mortgage portfolio each year. The fund will annually contribute approximately \$500 million to the construction, maintenance, and preservation of affordable housing.

The Affordable Housing Fund is an important step toward ensuring access to safe, affordable housing for all Americans, regardless of socioeconomic status or geographic region. In its first year, the funds will be used entirely to build much-needed homes throughout the region devastated by Hurricane Katrina. In subsequent years, the grants from the fund will be administered by states, and Minnesota will receive an estimated \$6.5 million each year to build affordable housing for the most vulnerable families.

I applaud Chairman FRANK for bringing forward a comprehensive and fair bill. I am particularly pleased that in contrast to last years' efforts, H.R. 1427 does not include language restricting faith-based and nonprofit organizations from receiving affordable housing funds for participation in nonpartisan voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities. Congress should put the needs of American families before political ideology, and this bill does just that.

The Federal Housing Finance Reform Act has the support of the Bush Administration, as well as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, numerous other financial institutions, lenders, realtors, housing advocates, and many other housing organizations.

Access to safe and stable housing is a basic need and one that no individual or family should ever be denied. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 1427.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANCIS JOHNSON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Francis "Frank" Johnson's accomplished career and influential musical legacy. Born in 1792 in Philadelphia, Johnson was well known as a professional musician by age 20. Overcoming the barriers of racism, Johnson achieved in-

credible success even in the face of such racial strife, composing over 300 pieces of music. Further, in a time when professional musicians were a rarity in the United States, Johnson established a career with incredible variety and importance that has had an impact on countless modern musicians.

Johnson trained with Richard Wills, the West Point band leader, and quickly mastered many instruments like the keyed bugle. He published his first composition, "A Collection of New Cotillions," in 1818, and soon became one of Philadelphia's premier musicians. Johnson's vast musical accomplishments were noted by author Robert Walsh in 1819, commenting: "In fine, he is the leader of the band at all balls, public and private; sole director of all serenades, acceptable and unacceptable; inventor-general of cotillions; to which add, a remarkable taste in distorting a sentimental, simple, and beautiful song, into a reel, jig or country-dance."

It is an honor to recognize a figure who was able to overcome incredible hardships to create a legacy that has affected countless generations. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Francis Johnson for his renowned musical achievements and lasting influence.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAM AND ESTHER DAVIDOWITZ AS THEY ARE HONORED AS "PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY" IN WILKES-BARRE PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to William and Esther Davidowitz who are being honored as Amudei Tzibur, or Pillars of the Community, by Temple Israel in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz will be formally honored at Temple Israel's annual dinner to be held Wednesday, June 13, 2007.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz are regarded as exemplary role models due to their achievements in both the Jewish community and the greater Wyoming Valley community.

Born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, Mr. Davidowitz served in the United States Army during World War II and later attended Penn State University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He joined his family's shoe business in Hazleton and later moved to the Wilkes-Barre area to establish the Penn Footwear Company in Nanticoke.

Mr. Davidowitz is a past chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and he remains active in the Jewish Federation and he is a trustee at the Jewish Community Center in Wilkes-Barre. He has served on the boards of Temple Israel, the Jewish Community Center, Fox Hill Country Club and Penn State University, Lehman Campus.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz were instrumental in the creation and dedication of many community projects including the United Hebrew Institute Art Room, the Davidowitz Lounge at the Jewish Community Center and the building

addition to the United Hebrew Institute in 1980.

The Seligman J. Strauss Lodge of B'nai B'rith presented Mr. Davidowitz with its Community Service Award and the trustees of the Luzerne County Community College recognized his efforts as vice chairman of the building authority responsible for the construction of the Nanticoke campus.

Mrs. Davidowitz serves on the board of the Jewish Community Center. She is a past board member of Temple Israel and Wilkes University and has held leadership roles at the Northeast Ethics Institute, Luzerne County Area Agency on Aging, King's College, Ballet Northeast, College Misericordia, Wyoming Seminary, John Heinz Institute, Penn State Lehman Campus, Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic, United Hebrew Institute and the Wyoming Valley Jewish Campaign, which she chaired in 1990.

Mrs. Davidowitz is a member of the Klezmer Band, "Freilox and Bagels," where she has played both the harp and the flute. She has served as the non-governmental representative to the United Nations for the National Council of Jewish Women and as a local representative to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Mrs. Davidowitz has received tributes from the Greater Wilkes-Barre Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Jewish Federation of Greater Wilkes-Barre and the Seligman J. Strauss Lodge of B'nai B'rith.

Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz are the parents of four sons, Jeffrey, Ivan, Steven and Benjamin. They now have nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Davidowitz on this auspicious occasion. Their inexhaustible energy and devotion to family and community is an inspiration for all. Their volunteer service is an extraordinary example of how two people can make a huge difference in the quality of life in America.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UA LOCAL 370 PLUMBERS AND PIPEFITTERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to take the opportunity to extend congratulations to the UA Local 370 Plumbers and Pipefitters as they commemorate their 100th anniversary. A celebration will be held on June 7 in Flint Michigan.

Local 370 was chartered on June 4, 1907 with 15 members. As a part of the United Association, Local 370 worked to change the 10-hour workday and the working conditions of its members. Over the years the benefits enjoyed by the membership have changed and grown. Base wages, initiation fees, and window dues have all changed to reflect changing economic times. The pension fund and insurance fund were created by in response to the needs of the membership.

Over the past 100 years Local 370 has been an integral part for worker rights. Chartered 30 years before the famous UAW sitdown strike in 1937, members of Local 370

built the building where the sitdown strike took place. The members have been committed to protecting prevailing wages, working for laws to mandate plumbing licenses for anyone working in the plumbing industry, working with other labor organizations to improve the day-to-day lives of workers everywhere.

Committed to the United Association motto, "We Do It Right the First Time," Local 370 has created a first-class training center for apprentices to develop their skills. The current roster of almost 500 members can earn up to 70 different certifications from United Association. The members strive to be the best trained and most up to date in their professions.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Local 370 for their assurance to their craft, their customers, the public and to the American worker. We have all benefited from their desire to work in a safe, conscientious environment.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION OF MODERN-DAY SLAVERY ACT INTRODUCTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives CHRIS SMITH, CAROLYN MALONEY, and THELMA DRAKE to introduce a very important piece of legislation, the Congressional Commission on the Abolition of Modern-Day Slavery Act. The United States abolished slavery in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, however, slavery continues around the world and we must seek ways to end the suffering. This bill will establish a highly qualified and bipartisan commission to make recommendations on what the United States can do to eradicate slavery in all corners of the Earth.

According to the International Labor Organization, more than 12.3 million people are victims of forced labor worldwide. Free the Slaves, a non-governmental organization, estimates that upwards of 27 million people are slaves today. The U.S. Government says that there are more than 14,500 people trafficked into labor or sex exploitation in the United States each year; perhaps hundreds of thousands of Americans are also trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation right here in their own country. Each of these individuals is a modern-day slave.

Modern-day slavery takes many forms, most often different from the images found in our own history. Rather than owning their slaves outright as in years past, the 21st century slaveholders use threats, violence and psychological coercion to keep slaves in dangerous and degrading working conditions with little or no pay. In countries around the world, slaves can be found in many labor-intensive industries, including the agricultural, commercial sex, construction, garment, manufacturing and service industries, as well as in domestic service.

To develop U.S. policy to end this man-made tragedy requires a thoughtful analysis of the factors contributing to slavery, a coordinated strategy among government agencies, and the political commitment of foreign gov-

ernments to pursue an end to slavery and an end to the impunity of slave holders. The Congressional Commission on the Abolition of Modern-Day Slavery would start this effort by examining best practices to prevent modern-day slavery, examining the effectiveness of U.S. laws prohibiting the importation of goods manufactured or produced through forced labor or child labor, examine U.S. policies and relations with countries that tolerate modern-day slavery, increase education and awareness about modern-day slavery, make recommendations to Congress on actions necessary to combat and eliminate modern-day slavery in all its forms, and more.

It is time to end the exploitation of people around the world. The U.S. Congress has the responsibility to study ways the United States can end modern forms of slavery and this commission will be the first step. There is no place in our world for slavery. Let's work to end it now!

RECOGNIZING DIANNA M.N. LE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dianna M.N. Le, a young woman from Guam who will serve our Nation as a commissioned officer in the United States Army. She has made her parents, Phat V. Le and Lylan T. Nguyen of Mangilao, Guam, and the people of Guam immensely proud. Dianna attended Wettengel Elementary School and Santa Barbara Middle School in Dededo, and graduated from St. John's College Preparatory School in Tumon, with a performance record that earned her a nomination to the United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point. Having successfully maintained an outstanding academic record, Dianna M.N. Le will graduate from West Point and will be commissioned as a second lieutenant on May 26, 2007. She will soon begin an important and challenging career as a soldier and leader serving our country with distinction.

Throughout her 4 years at West Point, Cadet Le was recognized for her military skill and athleticism, as well as for her academic achievement. She earned the Recondo badge for military proficiency, the Army Physical Fitness Badge, the Indoor Obstacle Course Badge, and the Master of the Sword Badge. She was elected as team captain of the nationally ranked USMA Women's Army rugby team. She was twice selected as a 2nd Team All-American for her skill as a rugby player. She twice earned recognition on the Dean's list. Additionally, a paper which she co-authored was published in Applied Optics Journal.

As a second lieutenant, Dianna will serve as a Military Police officer. Following graduation, she will attend a 6-week Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) in Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon completion of training at Fort Benning, she will receive additional training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, after which she will report for duty with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Bamberg, Germany.

In line with the USMA's mission to train military leaders, Dianna Le consistently upheld the Academy's principles, traditions, and values of "Duty, Honor, Country" throughout the

course of her education, and has proven that she has become a military leader, ready to take her place in the service of our Nation. The people of Guam are proud of Dianna's achievements and grateful for her service to our country. We commend her for her accomplishments and extend our best wishes to her as she begins her military career.

NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. I strongly oppose oil-producing and exporting cartels setting artificial limits on the production of oil. Infamous cartels, such as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, have manipulated the supply of oil and helped worldwide gasoline prices soar. This harmful collaboration to limit oil production has led to hardships for the American economy.

Unfortunately, Democratic leaders have brought a misguided bill to the House floor this week to supposedly bring an end to cartels such as OPEC. While I support the dismantling of cartels that manipulate oil production, I have serious concerns about negative consequences the United States would face if this bill were enacted.

I rise to oppose H.R. 2264 because of the impact it would have on our national security, trade security and energy security.

If the United States should bring an antitrust lawsuit against an OPEC member country, restrictions could be placed on our ability to station and activate troops in the Middle East. We rely on cooperation from countries that are members of cartels for assistance in the global war on terror. We should carefully consider what retaliatory actions or restrictions these countries could place on the United States if we were to pursue actions authorized in H.R. 2264.

These foreign governments could also levy trade sanctions against American products and businesses or choose to employ another oil embargo like the one that occurred in 1973. By cutting off oil supplies, they could cause gasoline price increases for American consumers. Americans do not want higher gas prices, which is the direction H.R. 2264 could take us.

The Democratic leadership should have waited until the Government Accountability Office is able to study the likelihood of retaliatory actions against the United States and any negative impact those actions would yield if H.R. 2264 became law. American security is not something we should treat glibly.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 2264. The uncertain impact this bill could have on America's national security, energy security and economic security is not worth risking for hasty passage of a bill that will yield no short-term benefits for the American people.

OPPOSITION TO SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the irresponsible immigration bill being considered in the Senate. As I travel around the big first congressional district in Kansas, the number one issue Kansans want to talk about is immigration. Across my home State and across the Nation, illegal immigration affects all aspects of life in our communities. Schools must deal with educating growing numbers of students who speak little or no English. Hospital emergency rooms grow even more crowded. Law enforcement work overtime to keep neighborhoods safe.

While our immigration process is broken and needs dramatic overhaul, the legislation currently being debated in the Senate is not the answer. The Senate proposal is public policy at its worst. I oppose the Senate legislation. As I have said since this debate began, the first priority must be to restore the integrity of our borders. Without secure borders, the laws dealing with citizenship and worker permits are irrelevant.

In addition to protecting the border, we also need a fair and efficient immigration agency that encourages compliance with our laws so that those who wish to come to the United States legally are able to do so in a timely and appropriate manner.

I am more than willing to work with my colleagues to craft legislation that truly will address this country's immigration issue, but the compromise legislation pending in the Senate only exacerbates the problem.

HONORING EDWARD LEWIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of Ed Lewis. Today Ed is being honored by the Greater New Haven, Connecticut Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for his many decades of leadership in the fight for civil rights, equality and social justice in our country.

Ed is currently the Vice President of Franchise Relations for the Charlotte Bobcats in the National Basketball Association (NBA). In that role he develops relationships with state and local governments on behalf of that organization, and also ensures diversity in the Bobcats' business partnerships.

Ed brings a wealth of professional experience to his current position, having served as a leader in the cable television industry for many years. Before joining the Bobcats' organization, he was the Vice President of Corporate Affairs for BET (Black Entertainment Television) on Jazz: The Jazz Channel. Ed also served with distinction at Telecommunications, Inc. (TCI); District Cablevision, Inc.; and District Cable Advertising. His service with BET networks goes back to 1993, when he

served in roles related to network operations, consumer affairs and marketing. Ed received his B.A. from Howard University, and his M.A. from Occidental College. He was a National Urban Fellow, Ford Foundation Fellow and Associate Administrator for procurement for the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Throughout his career, Ed has been active in professional and community groups, and maintains various leadership roles within those organizations. He is on the Board of Directors at Theater Charlotte; WTVI Public Television; and the Bobby Phills Foundation. Ed serves on the advisory boards of the Mint Museum as well as the Mint Museum of Craft and Design. Furthermore, he is a member of the Charlotte Rotary, as well as 100 Black Men of Charlotte.

I have known Ed for many years and I salute his unwavering commitment to young people. He is an inspirational role model to young African American boys and teenagers, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Ed's dedication to creating a more just and equitable society has had a positive impact on countless lives within and beyond the African American community. On this very special day, I join the friends, family and colleagues of Ed Lewis in thanking and saluting him for his profound contributions to his community, our country and our world.

A TRIBUTE TO SAN MATEO COUNTY JOBS FOR YOUTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize a remarkable program for young people in my home district in California, the San Mateo County Jobs for Youth program will celebrate a quarter century of success on May 31, 2007.

This nonprofit program, founded and facilitated by my good friend Al Teglia, serves youth ages 14 to 21 regardless of background, socio-economic status, or risk level, at no cost to them or to employers. Youth learn to master job applications, prepare for interviews and create resumes; they then receive job or internship leads to help further their ambitions. Last year, nearly 2,000 young people were served in its five offices located throughout San Mateo County.

Madam Speaker, when so many bemoan the lack of effective programs to address the importance of giving young people a step up the ladder of employment, the Jobs for Youth program facilitates wonderful opportunities through its job development and referral program for youth.

The celebration scheduled for May 31 will focus on several specific examples of success. Gilead Sciences in Foster City will be honored at the event with a special business recognition, and Daly City will be presented the fourth annual Mary Louise Paskevich Award in memory of her 20-year Jobs for Youth participation. Both entities actively support the program by hiring program graduates and helping youth around the county. Bill Somerville of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation will also be acknowledged. He donated the "seed money" to Al Teglia to start up Jobs for Youth, which was initially called Summer

Jobs for Youth until 2000, when it became a year-round program.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the good work and success of San Mateo County Jobs for Youth as they celebrate 25 years of helping young people begin their productive lives of employment.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE MINING ACCIDENT IN NOVOKUZNETSK, RUSSIA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences over the terrible mining accident that took place earlier today near the Russian city of Novokuznetsk in Siberia. According to news reports, as many as 38 people may have been killed and still others injured in a methane gas explosion at the Yubileynaya coal mine. This is a terrible and sad accident.

Words alone cannot adequately convey my sympathy over this tragic accident. Coal mining is a difficult and dangerous job often done by the economically disadvantaged and accidents such as these only make that challenging way of life harder. Indeed, we Americans are, unfortunately, no stranger to mining accidents.

Just this morning the Helsinki Commission held a hearing on Russia. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those Russians affected by this tragedy and we hope that those who remain trapped are recovered soon and alive.

TRIBUTE TO SUNEIL IYER, SECOND PLACE WINNER IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sunil Iyer, a seventh grade student at Indian Trail Junior High School in Olathe, Kansas, who recently finished in second place at the 2007 National Geography Bee.

Suneil, who received a \$15,000 college scholarship prize award, qualified for the national bee by winning the Kansas National Geographic Bee for the second year in a row. Like his family, friends and neighbors, I am very proud of Suneil, and welcome this opportunity to share news of his success with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I include with this statement two recent articles from the local press regarding Suneil Iyer's success: an article from the Kansas City Star that was published prior to the national bee, and an article from today's Olathe Daily News summarizing the results of that competition.

[From The Kansas City Star, May 18, 2007]

THREE-PEAT NOT ON GEOGRAPHY WHIZ'S MAP: INDIAN TRAIL STUDENT PLACED FOURTH IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE LAST YEAR

(By Martha Zirschky)

Suneil Iyer has always loved animals, his mother says. The Indian Trail eighth-grader is intrigued by the wildlife in Antarctica and says he'd love to travel there.

A year ago, Suneil Iyer missed a question on the "Somers Islands"—aka Bermuda—at the National Geographic Bee finals in Washington, D.C. and was eliminated.

Many would find consolation in being the youngest finalist and still finishing fourth on the national stage. But not Suneil, now a 12-year-old Indian Trail Junior High seventh-grader who's again qualified for next week's final round.

If he places in the top three and wins scholarships worth \$25,000, \$15,000 or \$10,000, he would be ineligible to return again in 2008. That's his goal.

"I want to win and get it over with," he said.

Suneil qualified for the national bee by winning the Kansas National Geographic Bee for the second-straight year. Next Tuesday, he'll be one of 55 fourth- to eighth-graders who advanced from an original field of 5 million contestants to compete in the national preliminaries. Tuesday's top 10 winners will move on to Wednesday's finals with Alex Trebek, the Jeopardy host, serving as moderator.

Suneil will join geography bee winners from the 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, United States Territories and Department of Defense Dependents schools. His trip and that of his seventh-grade social studies teacher, Jill King, are being paid for by National Geographic.

Contestants can miss one question, Suneil said, and still stay in the running. Miss again and you're eliminated. Suneil made it to question 95 last year before his second miss.

The questions are both oral and written, and contestants have 12 seconds to answer, Suneil said. Both physical and cultural geography are fair game.

His goal, of course, is the \$25,000 college scholarship. Second or third would be an improvement over last year. The main thing, he says, is to win and not have to return to the pressure mill of a national contest.

Suneil has a large support system of family, friends and school community.

"This is a nice cooperative community," his mother, Lila, said. "It is a great community in which to raise kids."

Suneil's father, Ramakrishnan, is his main tutor, but he's also mentored by Eswar, an older brother. Although Suneil beat his brother last year at the state bee to win the trip to nationals, Eswar remains one of his biggest fans.

At Indian Trail, students even help Suneil by researching geography questions and putting them on cards for Suneil to study.

"The school supports Suneil with its 'Suneil, did you know?' (program)," Assistant Principal Margo Twaddle said.

Twaddle dispels the notion that Suneil is a one-trick pony. He's been the school spelling bee champ, participated in the Science Olympiad, been to math camp and played on a recreational softball team.

His career goals include becoming a pilot or marine biologist, or—not surprisingly—a geographer. He won his first geography bee when he was in fourth grade and began drawing animals at age three.

"As a little guy, he was always interested in animals, real or fictional," his mother said.

Suneil's father travels extensively and occasionally the family accompanies him, as

they did on a "trip of a lifetime" to the Galapagos Islands. The best part, Suneil said, was the islands' animal inhabitants, such as the iguana and giant tortoise.

On Suneil's dream itinerary? Egypt for the antiquities, he says, and Antarctica for the wildlife.

But first, there's a trip to Washington D.C.

[From the Olathe News, May 24, 2007]

OLATHE BOY PLACES SECOND IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

(By Arley Hoskin)

Olathe residents do not have to travel far to find a geography whiz.

Indian Trail Junior High School seventh-grader Suneil Iyer demonstrated his talent Wednesday with a second-place finish at the 2007 National Geography Bee.

"We are so proud of him," said Suneil's mother, Linda Iyer. Suneil traveled to Washington, D.C., with his parents, Linda and Ram Iyer, and his ninth-grade brother, Eswar, on Monday. The preliminary rounds started Tuesday.

The top 10 students competed in the final round Wednesday. Suneil competed in the bee for the first time last year when he placed fourth. He said he wanted to do better this year and is happy with second place.

"I wanted to get first, but I still thought second was pretty good," Suneil said.

Suneil received a \$15,000 college scholarship for his finish.

Suneil stumbled when judges asked him to name "a city that is divided by a river of the same name that was the imperial capital of Vietnam for more than a century."

"I just guessed," Suneil said.

Suneil did not guess the correct answer: Hue.

Caitlin Snaring, a 14-year-old home school student from Washington, placed first and received a \$25,000 college scholarship. Third place, and a \$10,000 college scholarship, went to Mark Arildsen, a 13-year-old Tennessee student. Linda Iyer said Suneil gained more than geographical knowledge and college money during the competition.

"The connections with the kids that he's made have been really wonderful," she said. "The kids here are all just really interested in this geography thing. They were just having a ball here." After Tuesday's rounds, the students gathered for a barbecue and games. Suneil said he enjoyed the recreational activities the bee planned for the students.

"They were fun," he said.

Ram Iyer said he thinks Suneil continues to show his peers in Olathe that geography is fun.

"His school was very excited that he was going," Ram Iyer said. "This has made a lot of other students think about if they want to try the geography bee."

Students age 10 to 14 can compete in the national bee, but this will be 12-year-old Suneil's last year. Students who place first, second or third cannot compete again.

IN HONOR OF CORPORAL RYAN A. BISHOP, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the State of Texas and of our Nation.

Corporal Ryan A. Bishop was a United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly and selflessly gave his life for

his country on April 14, 2007 during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

Assigned to the tenth mountain division, Ryan enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Moreover, he was a leader and mentor to younger soldiers and his posthumous promotion to Corporal exemplifies this spirit.

Corporal Bishop is survived by his wife, Melanie and his father, Charles Bishop both of Tyler, Texas.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them and all of Ryan's family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Corporal Bishop's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Corporal Bishop will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 444

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution (H. Res. 444) supporting the goals and ideals of National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day.

This resolution is intended to honor the invaluable contributions of Charles Edward Taylor, the father of aviation maintenance, and to recognize the essential role of aviation maintenance technicians in ensuring the safety and security of civil and military aircraft.

As you may know, Charles Edward Taylor, who built and maintained the engine that was used to power the Wright brothers' first controlled flying machine, was born on May 24, 1868.

Forty-five U.S. States have already declared May 24 to be Aviation Maintenance Technician Day within their jurisdictions. My resolution is intended to support these efforts, and honor aviation maintenance technicians, including Charles Edward Taylor.

CONGRATULATING GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY DOLPHINS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to congratulate the Gulf Shores High School softball team, the Lady Dolphins, on winning the Class 5A softball championship.

The Gulf Shores High School softball team has reached the state playoffs for the past six years, coming in second in 2004 and 2006; however, this is their first state championship title.

The Lady Dolphins, led by Coach Karen Collins, won four tight games over two days of tournament play before scoring a dramatic one run victory in the bottom of the seventh inning to win the state championship.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Gulf Shores softball team on a great season and winning the state championship. This team deserves to be recognized for this great accomplishment, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team and coaching staff.

GULF SHORES HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL ROSTER

Jennifer Adams, Whitney Bizjack, Brit-tany Carroll, LaDaire French, Haley Haynie, Haley Hopkins, Stephanie Ivie, Yvette Jones, Aimee Livingston, Carolyn Manolakis, Tabitha Reno, Stefani Reynolds, Elizabeth Safiran, Stephanie Stuckey, Lisa Ybarra, Head Coach—Karen Collins, and Assistant Coach—Michael Jones.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT COBY G. SCHWAB

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of SSG Coby G. Schwab, a true American hero, who died on Thursday, May 3, 2007 of injuries sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Schwab died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. He was assigned to the 321st Engineer Battalion, United States Army Reserve stationed out of Hayden Lake, Idaho.

Staff Sergeant Schwab was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the United States Army to serve his country in the Global War on Terror. He will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was. His warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life SSG Coby G. Schwab. He acted heroically and made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the War on Global Terror defending democracy and freedom.

A TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the students of the social science classes of Central High School's 266th graduating class. Under the leadership of teachers William Graham, Michael Horwits, Stanford Levy, Joseph Putro, Reginald Speir, and president Dr. Sheldon Pavel, the students' extensive research and dedication to political education deserves great recognition.

As members of the social science class, students gained an understanding of the local political process through the in-depth study of Philadelphia's 2007 mayoral race. Their hard work and dedication culminated in the Power of Student Voices Mayoral Forum, which was

entirely student run and moderated. Attended by the major mayoral candidates, the forum provided the students with an opportunity to raise their concerns and speak directly to the candidates themselves. The hard work necessary for the event's success further exemplifies the students' commitment to excellence.

It is an honor to recognize a group of students who show such great dedication to the political process. The commitment and outstanding initiative of the students is to be praised, and their excellence deserves great credit. I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the students of the social science classes of Central High School for their exemplary contribution to the Commonwealth.

CONGRATULATING MONSIGNOR JOHN J. BENDIK AS HE CELEBRATES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PRIESTHOOD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Monsignor John J. Bendik, pastor of the parish community of St. Casimir, St. John the Baptist, St. John the Evangelist and St. Joseph in Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, who is celebrating his 40th anniversary in the priesthood.

Over the years, Monsignor Bendik has distinguished himself as a priestly shepherd to his many parishioners, and most especially, as a staunch advocate of education at all levels.

A son of the late John and Helen Sterbinsky Bendik, Monsignor Bendik was born in Wilkes-Barre and graduated from St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana before his ordination on May 27, 1967 by Most. Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, then bishop of the Scranton Diocese.

Monsignor Bendik served parishes in East Stroudsburg, Stroudsburg, Delaware Water Gap and Bushkill. He taught at Notre Dame High School and ministered to the students at East Stroudsburg University. Later, he served as chaplain to students at College Misericordia in Dallas, Pa.

During his long campus ministry, he served in many local, State and national leadership roles. He was the first president of the Pennsylvania Campus Ministry Association and was a founding member of the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry and the National Catholic Student Coalition. He served as team member for the Frank J. Lewis Campus Ministry Training School and also was a member of the Northeast Regional Ministry in Higher Education and the Associates for Religion and the Intellectual Life.

Prior to his current assignment, Monsignor Bendik also served at Our Lady of Snows in Clarks Summit, St. Benedict in Newton Township and St. Mary of Czestochowa in the Greenwood section of Scranton.

Monsignor Bendik serves on the Board of Trustees at College Misericordia, the Board of Regents of the University of Scranton and the Board of Trustees at St. Meinrad School of Theology. He has also served as a member of the Board of Pastors of Seton Catholic High School and the Greater Pittston Ministerium.

Monsignor Bendik also serves in many capacities on the diocesan level including the post of Dean of priests for northern Luzerne County.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Monsignor Bendik on his 40th anniversary as a Catholic priest. His selfless service and wise counsel to his many parishioners and students will be forever remembered and respected. Monsignor Bendik has truly enriched the lives of so many as he has labored to improve the quality of life throughout his community.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS' CITYWIDE TITLE I PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Flint Community Schools' Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council. The council will hold a celebration on June 5 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, in honor of this event.

Dr. Edward Hansberry founded the Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council in 1967. The advisory council was born from the idea that parents should be honored for the work they do on behalf of their children. It has grown into a vehicle to teach parents and give them a voice in the education of their children. The advisory council allows for the parents to have positive interaction with teachers and social workers. This builds bonds between parents and administrators and gives parents a mechanism to provide feedback on the programs.

David Solis, director of State, Federal and local programs for the Flint Community Schools will host the celebration. Named the "40th Parent of the Year Celebration—A Journey of Joy, Challenge and Change" this celebration will highlight the dedication and success of the students, parents and educators benefiting from title 1.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Citywide Title I Parent Advisory Council for 40 years of successfully involving parents in the title I program.

GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW WORLD OF COCA-COLA

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize an important event for the city of Atlanta—the upcoming grand opening of the New World of Coca-Cola adjacent to Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, Georgia.

Seventeen years ago in 1990, the World of Coca-Cola opened its doors to the public and has since delighted over 13 million visitors at its Underground Atlanta location. This new and expanded facility opening May 24 is twice the size of the current World of Coca-Cola. It

will be a much more interactive and dynamic version of its predecessor.

The New World of Coca-Cola will house exhibits that draw upon Coca-Cola's history and timeless values of optimism and refreshment. It is a physical manifestation of the company's vision and values and commitment to the city of Atlanta. It will introduce visitors to the Coca-Cola Company of the 21st century: a company that is committed to offering people more than 400 ways to be refreshed and to having a meaningful impact in the communities in which it operates.

I would like to congratulate the Coca-Cola Company on a premier destination for Georgia residents and visitors from around the world.

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN THOMAS AGUON DUENAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Midshipman Jonathan Thomas Aguon Duenas who will graduate from the United States Naval Academy with a bachelor of science in history and who will be commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy on May 25, 2007.

Jonathan is a graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School on Guam, where he acquired outstanding leadership qualities and a desire to strive for excellence. Jonathan credits two other Chamorro Naval Academy graduates for inspiring his decision to become an Academy-trained naval officer: Retired Navy Captain and former Guam Senator Eulogio "Eloy" Bermudes, was the first Chamorro graduate of the Naval Academy in 1970, and Captain Peter A. Gumataotao, who graduated the Academy in 1981, and who was the first Chamorro selected as commanding officer of a Navy warship, the U.S.S. *Decatur*, which made a port visit to Guam during his command. Captain Gumataotao also is a product of Father Duenas Memorial School, having graduated from the school in 1976. Jonathan's brothers who are currently serving in the Air National Guard also are a source of inspiration.

Jonathan entered the United States Naval Academy as a plebe in 2003 and worked hard to become a naval officer. He was one of only 36 midshipmen selected to attend the prestigious Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer Program. Jonathan will report aboard the destroyer, U.S.S. *Curtis Wilbur*, home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan. Upon completion of his first tour, he will report to Nuclear Power School in South Carolina.

Jonathan was raised on Guam, the youngest of eight children born to Ricardo Camacho Duenas and the late Ruth Aguon Duenas of Tamuning. He was steeped in his Chamorro culture and a strong sense of responsibility, volunteering his time and effort in support of Habitat for Humanity projects in the greater Washington, DC area.

Today we share the pride of the Duenas family and the people of Guam in Ensign Jonathan Duenas' achievements. As evidenced by his performance in school, Jonathan promises to truly become the naval officer as hon-

orable as those who inspired him and those who preceded him.

FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to fuel shortages, waiting in long lines to purchase gas, price controls and H.R. 1252. I rise in support of lowering fuel prices for consumers, creating more jobs for Americans, opening new sources of energy and encouraging investment in innovative energy technologies.

Today the House will be voting on H.R. 1252, a bill that would impose price controls on free-market energy products and would create hardship on Americans during a national emergency. Guised as a price gouging bill to protect American consumers, H.R. 1252 would actually create hardship for Americans.

I do not support price gouging. Taking unfair advantage of consumers, especially during an emergency situation, is wrong. Those who engage in this type of behavior should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Kansans are already protected by state law that prohibits price gouging during a time of disaster.

In a free market economy, when supplies become limited or scarce, prices rise to curb demand and help ensure product remains available. When artificial fuel prices are set by the government, demand remains high and supply will not be able to keep pace. Consumers will be faced with gas rationing and standing in long lines. Consumers who need fuel could be faced with gas stations running out of gasoline.

There is no question my constituents in Kansas are angered by high fuel prices. We all feel the pain in our wallets. High energy costs effect everyone from families to small businesses to large corporations. However, voting to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to enforce price controls on a free-market energy produce like gasoline will not provide relief at the pump. If anything, it could restrict consumers from purchasing fuel during times when it is needed the most.

Returning to a 1970s era where consumers are forced to wait hours in line just to purchase fuel is not a solution. H.R. 1252 does not help lower the cost of fuel for Americans today or long-term. It is not an effective solution to high gas prices.

Congress should instead offer real solutions like encouraging more investment in innovative energy technologies, supporting clean and safe access to petroleum resources off our Nation's shores and on public lands, spurring investment in renewable sources of energy, and expanding domestic refining capacity. These are solutions that would help lower energy costs and create American jobs.

This week I introduced The Refinery Streamlined Permitting Act of 2007, a bill to help increase America's refining capacity and lower gas prices. My bill streamlines the federal permitting process for new or expanding domestic refineries. It creates a framework for all parties involved to understand what actions

need to be carried out for an expeditious permit approval to be granted. And it requires that such actions be completed within one year.

My bill will require agencies to give high priority to refinery applications that would result in greater capacity, a cleaner-burning fuel, or a reduction in a refinery's pollution output. And it will require Federal agencies to more carefully examine the impact a proposed rule would have on energy supplies and provide that information to the public.

Instead of bringing an artificial price-control bill to the House floor that could lead to gas rationing and long lines, Democrat leaders should instead offer real solutions.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1252 and in support of policies that will lower the cost of gasoline for the American people.

THANKING KANSAS BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION DIRECTOR
LARRY WELCH

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, Kansas was once known for being part of the Wild West. Widespread lawlessness allowed for cattle rustlers and wild cowboys in towns like Abilene and Dodge City. Our great state also has a history of lawmen known for settling issues with a personalized style of law enforcement. Sheriffs Wyatt Earp and Wild Bill Hickok faced threats from individuals bent on destroying a peaceful way of life. The retiring Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation is part of this storied tradition of making Kansas a state where families can pursue a way of life envied by others. Today, Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Welch's service as a leader and innovator in law enforcement.

Director Welch and I share a similar academic background. We both received a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Kansas. Director Welch though, went on to serve his country in a noble profession. Where did I go wrong, becoming a lawyer then a banker and then a politician? In 1961, he was appointed as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For 25 years, his tireless commitment to justice led him around the country. Before returning to Kansas, he served in FBI assignments in Knoxville, Tennessee; Washington, DC; Miami, Florida; West Palm Beach, Florida; San Juan, Puerto Rico; San Antonio, Texas; and McAllen, Texas.

During his lengthy service with the FBI, Director Welch was charged with supervising all FBI operations in Kansas. After his time with the FBI, he began work as associate director at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. While at the training center he was promoted to Director and provided leadership in this position for nearly 5 years before he accepted the appointment by Attorney General Robert Stephan as director of the KBI. He was reappointed KBI director by Attorney General Carla Stovall in 1995 and by Attorney General Phill Kline in 2003.

Director Welch has been a strong advocate in the fight against methamphetamine and its devastating impact on communities across Kansas. He recognized the significant harm

and damage this poison inflicts on families and has made combating the manufacture and use of meth a priority of the KBI under his administration. Seizures of meth labs have drastically decreased in our state during the past several years. This can only be attributed to the effectiveness of law enforcement in Kansas making the production of meth an extremely risky business. The humble and relentless man that Director Welch is, could be seen when he quickly responded to compliments of the KBI's many lab seizures by explaining that meth is still coming in from foreign sources and that there was still much work to be done to protect Kansans from this destructive drug.

I would be remiss if I did not include in a tribute to this man, any mention of the care he has shown to the law enforcement community in Kansas. His compassion is well known throughout the state. He is consistently the first to express sympathies, in person, to families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. Many in this field of work, whether in the city police, sheriff's department, or Highway Patrol, consider Larry Welch a friend and an advisor.

Director Welch has given back to his state and country for 46 years with much of his career dedicated to making Kansas a safe and desirable place to live and visit. In the many important roles he filled in his life, he served out of a sense of duty. I join Larry Welch's many friends and admirers in thanking a great man for great service.

HONORING OAKLAND COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Oakland Community Organizations (OCO), a faith-based community organizing network in Oakland, California. Today, OCO celebrates 30 years of advocacy and invaluable service to the community.

In 1972, OCO was established as an organizing project of Fathers John Baumann, S.J. and Jerry Helfrich S.J., the founders of the Pacific Institute for Community Organization (PICO) network. PICO is a national network with faith-based organizations at work in over 45 cities in 12 states across the United States, pursuing initiatives in areas such as healthcare access, education reform and affordable housing.

From 1972–1977, Baumann and Helfrich focused on building neighborhood organizations in West Oakland, San Antonio, Fruitvale, Central East Oakland from 50th to 80th Streets, and Elmhurst area. Neighborhood after neighborhood worked on issues like junkyards, stray dogs, prostitution, zoning, crime and vacant housing. On May 14, 1977 over 1,000 people gathered at Merritt College to officially give birth to OCO, articulating the faith values that today are the foundation of OCO's organizing principles.

For the next 8 years, OCO operated successfully as a neighborhood based organization, bringing people together around local and citywide issues. During this period, OCO achieved major victories in areas such as af-

fordable housing, local hiring, and the rehabilitation of once-vacant houses.

In 1985, with the support of PICO, OCO began the transition from a neighborhood-organizing model to a congregation community-based model. Using this method, OCO developed strong local organizations in seven congregations. During the 1980's OCO received national accolades in many areas, but in particular for its groundbreaking work in partnership with the City of Oakland to combat drug use.

In the 1990s, OCO leaders turned their attention on the root causes of poverty in Oakland and focused on developing sustainable solutions for complex problems. During that time, OCO organized thousands of people for major citywide action that resulted in the creation of Aviation High School, a pilot school-to-work transition program; the Hope Campaign, which created smaller kindergarten class sizes; and the opening of a grocery store in West Oakland.

OCO has continued this proud tradition of advocacy and innovation through the present day. Over the past several years, OCO has again charted new territory in several areas through initiatives such as the Restructuring of two Oakland High Schools, Castlemont High School and Fremont High School, into separate but interconnected schools within their respective schools. Furthermore, OCO continues its extraordinary advocacy work in the areas of healthcare access, immigrants' rights and affordable housing.

On May 11, 2007, OCO will celebrate its 30th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending the organization for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as an institution of faith and worship, but also as a leader in working to provide services and advocacy to the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of leadership and service throughout its 30 years of community organizing and action, OCO has contributed enormously not only to the Oakland community, but also to our State, our country and our world.

SAN MATEO COUNTY AND SAN
FRANCISCO COUNTY DISTIN-
GUISHED SCHOOLS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly praise the educational system within my home state of California and, in particular, the schools in my congressional district. In the face of what seems constant criticism of our school systems, there are actually many, many instances of excellence.

California's State Superintendent of Education Jack O'Connell recently announced a remarkable list of 76 middle schools and 95 high schools that will be designated as California Distinguished Schools through 2011. San Mateo County Board of Education Superintendent Jean Holbrook said that San Mateo County, much of which is within California's 12th congressional district, is the 16th largest county in the state yet ranks fourth in receiving distinguished school awards. I agree completely with her that this "says something

about the great job that the educators of San Mateo County are doing.”

Nine San Mateo County middle and high schools were among the California schools selected as 2007 Distinguished Schools. This annual award recognizes these schools as among the state's most exemplary public schools.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the work done by the educators in California. The nine distinguished schools from San Mateo County include Ralston Middle School in Belmont, Crocker-Middle School in Hillsborough, La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park, Corte Madera Elementary School in Portola Valley, Aragon High School in San Mateo, Carlmont High School in Belmont, Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton and Sequoia High School in Redwood City.

I would like to add praise for two schools in San Francisco, also partly within my home district. Gateway High School and KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy Middle School were likewise selected as Distinguished Schools for 2007.

To be designated a Distinguished School requires a comprehensive review and evaluation. Of California's 2,400 middle and high schools, approximately 478 schools were eligible for consideration. Ultimately, 279 schools submitted the formal application for consideration. And finally, 76 schools were selected for the list.

Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to share with my colleagues this information and ask them to join me in recognizing the success of these fine California schools.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER KNOPKE,
KANSAS OUTSTANDING JUNIOR
MEMBER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young community leader from my congressional district, Jennifer Knopke, who was named Kansas Outstanding Junior Member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and will be so recognized at the DAR's August convention.

Jennifer is a dedicated teacher of at-risk students in the Shawnee Mission School District, and is an active volunteer in American Cancer Society Relay for Life, as well as her DAR volunteer activities.

To be considered for this award, young women must be between 18 and 35, and must be active in furthering the ideals of “God, Home, and Country” of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as other community service activities. State winners will compete in the national contest. I know Jennifer will represent the Kansas DAR well.

The Outstanding Junior Member Contest began in 1963 to honor young women active in their chapter and community activities, and to encourage young members to become involved in DAR activities and programs.

Outstanding young leaders like Jennifer are the backbone of every community. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Jennifer for this well-deserved award.

HONORING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in praise of the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida, home to three high schools ranked among the best in the nation by Newsweek magazine. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Arthur Johnson, is doing an outstanding job, for which we are all very grateful. The School District of Palm Beach County currently includes 166 public schools and over 170,000 students. The efficient operation of so many institutions of learning is a considerable undertaking, and Dr. Johnson, his administrators and the faculties of the various schools deserve great praise for their hard work and huge success.

I want to offer particular praise for Suncoast High School, rated fifth best high school in America by Newsweek and Dreyfoos School of the Arts, also in the top 20, both of which are in my district. Suncoast, an international studies magnet school, has been recognized before for the high quality of its programs. Additionally, at least five Suncoast teachers have been singled out for excellence, and both schools have seen many awards go to their students.

On this occasion, I also want to recognize Jessica Su, a junior at Suncoast High School, one of 81 students in America to receive the 2006–07 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement. This prestigious distinction is given to students who demonstrate the highest proficiency in mathematics and science. Ms. Su is one of only seven juniors to win this award. A brilliant young lady, her remarkable accomplishment can be credited in part to the education she is getting at Suncoast.

I am delighted to be able to stand here today praising these fine accomplishments, and it is with great pride that I congratulate both schools, their administrators, faculty and students and Dr. Johnson for the fine work they are all doing.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST LANCE
C. SPRINGER, U.S. ARMY

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I Rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

Specialist Lance C. Springer II was a United States Army soldier and a true American hero who gallantly and selflessly gave his life for his country on March 23, 2007, during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq.

Lance—or Craig as his family and friends called him, enlisted during time of war, which speaks volumes about his character and patriotism.

Assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, Craig's service as a field medic, placing the well-being of others ahead of his own, exem-

plifies the type of selfless and caring man that he was.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Craig's parents and all of his family and friends.

Our community and Nation honor Specialist Springer's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Specialist Craig Springer will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

INTRODUCTION OF “THE SAFETY,
EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ON TRANSPORTATION
PROJECTS THROUGH PUBLIC IN-
SPECTION ACT OF 2007”

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safety, Efficiency and Accountability in Transportation Projects through Public Inspection Act of 2007 (H.R. 2485).

This bill would require public employees to perform the inspection and related essential public functions on all state and local transportation projects. My bill is intended to ensure that public safety is protected, transportation funds are not wasted and projects are delivered in a timely manner.

On transportation projects, the construction inspector is the eyes, ears and voice of the public. Inspectors ensure that construction and seismic standards are met, that projects meet safety requirements and that the materials used will stand the test of time. In short, inspectors are there to ensure that the motoring public gets what they pay for and public safety and the public interest are protected.

When the construction inspection function is outsourced to a private company, there is no longer a representative of the public on the job site. In this circumstance, one private company is charged with the task of inspecting the work of another private company. This creates multiple conflicts for the private inspector. First, the private inspectors' primary obligation and responsibility is not to the public, but to the success and profitability of his company. Because the private construction company whose work they are inspecting on one project may be a business partner on a future project, private inspectors may also feel pressure from the private contractor to take steps that ensure larger profits for both firms. I am concerned that these conflicts have led private inspectors to cut corners and overlook problems that threaten public safety, increase costs and delay projects.

There are many examples in which public safety has been threatened by the use of private inspectors, including Boston's “Big Dig” (where a concrete slab from a tunnel ceiling fell and killed a woman), the L.A. Redline subway (Hollywood Blvd. collapsed), the 8–805 Interchange in San Diego (10,000 defective welds on a seismic retrofit), the Connecticut I–84 project (hundreds of drains that lead nowhere).

Contracting out public inspection work also does not save money. Defective work requires extensive repairs, and inevitably, the taxpayer gets stuck with the bill. Comparative studies

have also found that contracting-out engineering, design, and inspection costs more than to do this work in-house, and none of these studies found that consultant engineers were less expensive. Factors that contribute to consultants' excessive costs include the lack of competitive bidding, cost-plus provisions in contracts, salary differentials between the private and public sectors, profit margins of from 10 percent to 15 percent, and additional costs connected with selecting and supervising consultants.

Failure to have public construction inspectors has also delayed projects in the past and will undoubtedly do so in the future. One such example is the privately inspected \$12 million carpool bridge connecting the San Diego (405) and the Costa Mesa (55) Freeways. The project was to have been completed in April 2003. However, work was halted in August 2002 when chunks of concrete were falling from the structure and many cracks were noticed. Contractor and private inspector errors were later discovered and the carpool ramp did not open until January 2005.

The public and the Federal Government understand what's at stake. In a 2006 California public opinion poll, 71 percent of those surveyed said they want State engineers to inspect the construction of State highways; only 20 percent found private firms acceptable for the task. David M. Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, said in a recent interview: "There's something civil servants have that the private sector doesn't, and that is the duty of loyalty to the greater good—the duty of loyalty to the collective best interest of all rather than the interest of a few. Companies have duties of loyalty to their shareholders, not to the country."

HONORING THE TOWN OF SARALAND, ALABAMA, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the town of Saraland, Alabama, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Saraland was founded in 1957. Don Diago Alvarez first acquired the land through a Spanish land grant. His descendants later named the community Alvarez Station. In the 1800s, land squatters relocated to the area and began purchasing property. The Cleveland family moved to the area and renamed the town Cleveland Station. However, the name by which we now know this historic town was given by the retired minister, C.J. Dewitt, who reportedly named it after his beloved wife, Sara.

The industrial and population boom in neighboring Mobile brought the northward expansion into Saraland during the 1940s and 50s. When Saraland was incorporated in 1957, it had a reported 125 residents. The 1960s U.S. Census reported a growing town at nearly 5,000. By 1980, that number had risen to nearly 10,000, and today, Saraland is home to over 12,000 residents with the promise of continued growth.

Many prominent businesses have a presence in Saraland including Marshall Biscuits,

Mitchell Container, G. A. West & Co., and J&J Furniture. Saraland is also home to the University of Mobile. Set in the woods, the university's 1,500 students distinguish themselves through academics and a strong religious tradition.

Madam Speaker, the residents of Saraland, Alabama, have firmly rooted themselves in their proud history, but they also keep an optimistic and careful eye on the road ahead. The vision shown by their leaders over the past 50 years has led to the creation of a stable community, one of the anchors for all of Mobile County. I have no doubt that the consistent leadership and inspired vision of today's residents will lead to even greater successes in the coming years.

It is my hope the town of Saraland continues its story of success for another 50 years, and it is my distinct pleasure to represent this fine community in the United States House of Representatives.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CITY OF YERINGTON CENTENNIAL

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Yerington Centennial Celebration.

Yerington is truly a unique city that is rich in history. Situated along the banks of the Walker River, the green fields and tree lined highways of Mason Valley are surrounded by picturesque mountains full of history such as ghost towns and mining camps. On March 14, 1907, Governor John Sparks signed into law a bill that incorporated Yerington as a city. The origins of Yerington can be traced back to the 1850s when N.H.A. "Hock" Mason settled in the valley that now bears his name and in 1871, the Mason Valley Post Office was established in the town near the Walker River.

The town was referred to by many as "Pizen Switch," which folklore traces to the inferior grade of whiskey sold in a local saloon that was constructed of willow branches, and in 1879, the town was rechristened "Greenfield." In 1880, Henry Marvin Yerington, the General Superintendent of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, founded the Carson and Colorado Railroad that soon extended through Dayton, Fort Churchill, Wabuska in Northern Mason Valley. By 1894, the residents officially changed the names of the town and its post office to Yerington, in an unsuccessful effort to flatter Henry Yerington so that he would extend his rail line south through the town named after him. In 1911, the county seat of Lyon County was moved from Dayton to the thriving and growing City of Yerington.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Centennial Celebrations of the City of Yerington. The City of Yerington truly has a colorful and rich history that deserves recognition and I commend the efforts of Mayor Douglas Homestead, and City Council members Bill Vicencio, Rita Evasovic, Richard Faber and George Dini in facilitating this Centennial Celebration.

HONORING AHMET ERTEGUN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who, without exaggeration, was called "the greatest record man of all time" and who with great character and spirit made indelible contributions to the worldwide promotion of African-American music and American popular culture while also standing for racial equality and social justice.

Unfortunately, we lost Ahmet Ertegun, the founder of Atlantic Records and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in 2006. His legacy will live on in the music he promoted, and the legendary careers—from Ray Charles to the Rolling Stones—he helped create and develop over 60 years.

PBS recently ran a documentary titled "Atlantic Records: The House that Ahmet Built." This 2-hour sensation chronicled the life of Ertegun from his birth in 1923 through his childhood, career, and success. We witnessed America change through his eyes, and the emergence of African-American music into popular culture with his guidance.

I urge all Members of Congress to watch this documentary if they have not had the opportunity to do so. The son of the first Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the United States, Ertegun, through music and entertainment, was instrumental in breaking down the racial barriers that so divided our country during the years of Jim Crow laws and segregation. In the 1940s at a time when Washington was segregated, he frequented African-American nightclubs and realized that "all popular music stems from black music, be it jazz or rock n' roll or rap." Ertegun is often credited for coining the phrase, "jazz is America's music."

At every turn, Ertegun and his brother, Nesuhi, challenged the prevailing racial bigotry, stereotypes and discrimination. Despite being initially denied by the National Press Club and the segregation policies of the day, they organized the first integrated jazz concert before a white and black audience in Washington, DC at the Jewish Community Center in the 1940s. They even brought hostility to themselves in hosting the now famous integrated jazz sessions at their home of the Turkish embassy residence, again, challenging the practice of segregation. While not directly following in his father's footsteps with a diplomatic career, he practiced a true diplomacy in bringing people together.

Ertegun's love of American black music led him to found Atlantic Records in 1947. For nearly five decades, Ertegun wrote and produced music, defined careers and changed the lives of household names such as Ruth Brown, Big Joe Turner, Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, and others and brought African American music and soul into the American mainstream.

It was a young Turk who prominently recognized, promoted and honored the contributions of black America in the entertainment and recording industries. In a February 2005 interview in *Slate Magazine*, Ertegun was asked what he considered to be his legacy. His answer: "I'd be happy if people said that I did a little bit to raise the dignity and recognition of the greatness of African-American music."

Ertegun also became a trustee of several charitable organizations, including the Rhythm & Blues Foundation, which sought to ensure that singers and artists received their share of royalties that they had for so long been denied. As mentioned earlier, he was a contributing founder of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, whose main exhibition hall now bears his name.

Ahmet Ertegun's leadership is reflected in the inspirational careers of other Turkish Americans who continue the legacy of contributing to what makes America great. I hope that my colleagues, this great institution and the American people will join me in paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of a great American icon and a proud and talented Turk.

TRIBUTE TO KEIL HILEMAN, THE
D.A.R.'S OUTSTANDING TEACHER
OF AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Keil Hileman of DeSoto, KS, who in April was awarded the national Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] Outstanding Teacher of American History award. This award honors notable, full-time teachers of American history and related fields, such as social studies, government, and citizenship education. The teacher must have the ability to foster the spirit of American patriotism and loyal support of the United States and constitutional government and demonstrate the ability to relate the subject to modern life and events.

Sponsored by the Prairie Rose Chapter of the DAR, which is located in Overland Park, KS, in the Third Congressional District, Mr. Hileman was top winner in the state of Kansas and then selected for the national tribute from state winners from across the Nation and overseas. On June 30, 2007, Mr. Hileman will receive his award at DAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall.

Mr. Hileman, who teaches at Monticello Trails Middle School in Shawnee, Kansas, says his passion is to make history a part of the students' quality world. His success centers on his "classroom museum," filled with a potpourri of 20,000 artifacts he uses to teach events in American history. He began his museum by bringing heirlooms from his own collection to his class, and it has grown to thousands of items from contributions by families of students and community members. The historical artifacts, ranging from the ordinary but old to the extraordinary and rare, are all available for close examination by the students.

Among his many honors, Mr. Hileman was: the 2004 Kansas Teacher of the Year; the first Kansan to win the Horace Mann-National Education Association Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, in 2004; and was one of four finalists for The National Teacher of the Year award. He has taught at the middle school level for 14 years in the DeSoto Unified School District, where his course load includes an elective class using his artifacts collection called "Museum Connections." Additionally, he teaches a hands-on archaeology course at

Johnson County Community College, a classroom museum course for teachers at MidAmerica Nazarene University and a graduate/undergraduate, artifact-supported history class at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Keil Hileman's classroom credo is: "explore your world, empower yourself and those around you, excel in everything you do!" I am proud to represent this outstanding educator and caring individual in the United States Congress. I join with the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in commending Mr. Hileman for this truly well-deserved honor and I hope that his dedication to educating young people serves as an inspiration for others to enter the teaching profession.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces who have fallen in the line of duty, protecting our country and serving this nation honorably. On Monday, I will have the high honor of speaking at Golden Gate National Cemetery where I will look out across the many rows of snow white headstones at the generations of brave men and women lost in service to our country.

Memorial Day is a somber day of reflection, but it is also a day to celebrate the beliefs and ideals of America; not only do we remember those who embodied these ideals, but we must celebrate their lives and their willingness to sacrifice so that we might be here today.

On Memorial Day sixty-five years ago, the future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Earl Warren, stood near the site that I will stand inaugurating this important memorial. These 161 acres are hallowed grounds that must be treated with the highest respect. For those of us who live and work in the Bay Area, a drive down the 280 is a constant reminder of how many of our family members, friends, and neighbors have had to sacrifice their lives for our freedom.

Madam Speaker, the President bestows, in the name of Congress, the highest honor a member of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard can receive for valiant actions in the line of duty. Fifteen people at Golden Gate National Cemetery have received the Medal of Honor and are interred with over 130,000 other courageous men and women of the Armed Forces.

California has borne a large share of the burden that the Armed Forces have undertaken. Over two million veterans live in California and we have lost almost four hundred men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq. Right now there are over 20,000 Californians in these war zones, so on behalf of these brave soldiers I am committed to the view that Congress' first order of business must be to ensure that those who are in the line of fire are the most prepared and well-equipped. It is my solemn oath that none of the men and women in harm's way should lie here before it is their time.

Madam Speaker, I will go to the podium with mixed feelings; it is a high honor to be

able to go to Golden Gate National Cemetery on Memorial Day and share my thoughts with many veterans from around the Bay Area. It is impossible to express how important the sacrifices made by these men and women are to this country. One thing is certain: America would not be the great country it is without them.

This Memorial Day I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to all members of the Armed Forces, especially those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

IN HONOR OF MASTER SERGEANT
KENNETH N. MACK, UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS RE-
SERVE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the Fort Worth community and of our Nation.

MSgt Kenneth N. Mack was a proud United States Marine and a true American hero who gallantly gave his life for his country on May 5, 2007, during combat operations in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

Assigned to the Second Marine Expeditionary Force, Master Sergeant Mack's 25 years of faithful service as a Marine are an inspiration to all Americans, particularly the men he so ably led.

Kenneth Mack leaves behind his wife, Peggy, mother, Mahalia, and his daughter and son.

Our community and Nation honor Kenneth Mack's memory and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

MSgt Kenneth N. Mack will never be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family, the Marines who were entrusted to his care and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

CONGRATULATING ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL GIRLS' GOLF
TEAM ON WINNING THE 2007
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the St. Paul's Episcopal School girls' golf team on winning the 2007 state championship.

In 1947, William S. Mann founded St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile, Alabama. St. Paul's began with a class of twenty kindergartners, and has grown to currently enroll 1,613 students, making St. Paul's the largest Episcopal school in North America.

Coach Beverly Davis led the varsity girls' golf team to their first state championship at the Robert Trent Jones Grand National Course in Opelika. This most recent honor brings the number of state championships won by St. Paul's teams to eight this year. The team placed fourth last year and second two

years ago. Like Coach Davis, I am so proud of her players, and I know they worked hard for this great honor.

The Lady Saints proved they are champions in their victory at the Robert Trent Jones Grand National Course in Opelika. I congratulate the Lady Saints: sophomore Virginia Bedwell, sophomore Vivian Dudley, sophomore Marissa Gacek, and freshman Laura Dudley.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Paul's girls' golf team on a great season and state championship. This school deserves public recognition for this great honor, and I extend my congratulations to each member of the team.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD T. JONES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard T. Jones, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Richard enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944. He was 17 years old when he served in the D-Day invasion as Seaman First Class. In the early morning of June 6, 1944, his LST 357 landed at Omaha Beach, unloading amphibious Ducks and small boats loaded with infantry soldiers. His LST was under fire from German 88 mm guns, air fire and torpedoes in a bloody battle. The LST that Richard was assigned to also served as a medical transport to return the wounded back to England. Among Richard's medals are the American Theatre Victory Medal World War II, European African Middle Eastern Medal with 1 Star and Letter of Commendation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Richard T. Jones for his heroic service in the United States Military. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Richard T. Jones for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING JAMES J. KELLY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and career of James J. Kelly, Ph.D., ACSW, LCSW. Dr.

Kelly is the Provost and Executive Vice President of Menlo College in Atherton, California. He recently retired from the California State University system, having been a professor and Associate Vice President within the Division of Continuing and International Education for California State University, East Bay, CSUEB as well as former Interim Provost. Today Dr. Kelly celebrates his retirement from CSUEB after decades of outstanding service to our educational system, our community and our country.

Dr. Kelly's extensive academic and clinical credentials include a post-doctoral clinical fellowship in Psychiatry at UCLA Sepulveda Veterans Administration; a Ph.D. from Brandeis University; an M.S.S.W. from the University of Tennessee; and a B.S. from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Prior to working at CSUEB, Dr. Kelly was a professor and the Dean of Health and Human Services at Cal State Los Angeles, (CSULA), and a professor and the Director of the Department of Social Work at Cal State Long Beach. While at CSULA, he headed a coalition that brought in \$96 million to CSULA for a collaborative criminalistics laboratory for use by the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and CSULA.

At CSUEB, Dr. Kelly was responsible for eliminating an inherited \$3.7 million estimated debt in the Division of Continuing and International Education, and returning the division to profitability. Also among his outstanding accomplishment at CSUEB was Dr. Kelly's work to establish and oversee the East Bay Small Business Development Center in Oakland California, which he initiated with a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration and in cooperation with San Jose State. Dr. Kelly also established three free-standing training and professional facilities: (1) the CSUEB Oakland Professional Development and Conference Center, (2) the CSULA Center for Child Welfare, and (3) the CSULB Child Welfare Training Center.

Both at CSULA and CSUEB, Dr. Kelly was responsible for overseeing significant faculty hiring, and his work was notable for the high level of diversity, including women and minorities, he brought into both institutions. He was also a pioneer in the use of distance technology, having spearheaded distance education programs from Cal State Long Beach to CSU Humboldt, Channel Islands, Bakersfield, and Chico.

Dr. Kelly has been active for many years in professional and community organizations, and has received numerous accolades for his work. He is the immediate past President of the California Institute of Mental Health, and founding editorial board member of the Journal of Women and Aging. He is also a former consultant to the United Nations. Dr. Kelly has 38 publications, 109 presentations, and has garnered \$40 million in grants, contracts, endowments, and gifts to his credit. In 1987, he was named NASW National Social Worker of the Year.

Dr. Kelly's commitment to the students and faculty of the CSU System, as well as the community at large, has had a positive impact on countless lives.

On this very special day, I join the friends, family and colleagues of Dr. Jim Kelly in thanking and saluting him for his profound contributions to California's 9th Congressional District, our country and our world.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 2264, NO OIL PRODUCING AND EXPORTING CARTELS ACT OF 2007 AND H.R. 1252, THE FEDERAL PRICE GOUGING PREVENTION ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, I was pleased to support legislation to crack down on gas price gouging and OPEC state-controlled entities that conspire to limit the supply or fix the price of oil.

Nationwide, families are paying \$3.22 a gallon on average for regular gasoline—more than double the cost when President Bush took office, up 89 cents from the beginning of the year. Last year, families paid \$1,000 more on average for gasoline than in 2001. As we approach Memorial Day and the summer driving season, families in Michigan are paying an average of \$3.47 for gasoline.

The high cost for families come as oil companies continue to prosper. The six largest oil companies announced \$30 billion in profits for the first quarter of 2007. This is on top of the \$125 billion in record profits they made in 2006.

On Tuesday, the House approved H.R. 2264, a bill I introduced, to authorize the Justice Department to take legal action against OPEC state-controlled entities that participate in conspiracies to limit the supply, or fix the price, of oil.

On Wednesday, the House approved The Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act, H.R. 1252, which would give the Federal Trade Commission the authority to investigate and punish companies that artificially inflate the price of gas. The bill sets criminal penalties for price gouging, and permits states to bring lawsuits against wholesalers or retailers who engage in such practices.

In spite of record oil industry profits in the face of crippling costs for American consumers, President Bush has threatened to veto both pieces of legislation.

In addition to the legislation approved this week, the Democratic Congress has already voted to roll back \$14 billion dollars in taxpayer subsidies for Big Oil companies and reinvest the money in clean, alternative fuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Democrats are also developing an Independence Day package to boldly address energy independence and global warming by rapidly expanding the production of clean, alternative fuels and increasing energy efficiency, which will help protect our environment and bring down the cost of fuel for American consumers.

SWEDISH AMBASSADOR GUNNAR LUND'S REMARKS ON THE LEGACY OF RAOUL WALLENBERG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call my colleague's attention to the candid, earnest, and eloquent speech of the Swedish

Ambassador to the United States Gunnar Lund which he gave on Tuesday to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. In his presentation my friend Ambassador Lund articulated the courageous acts of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who during the Second World War single-handedly saved tens of thousand of Jews in Budapest from Nazi extermination camps.

The United States has enjoyed a strong relationship with Sweden since the 17th century when Swedish migrants settled on the banks of the Delaware River. Under Ambassador Lund's leadership, the Swedish Embassy has been an active participant in the political and cultural life of Washington, DC., and engaged in many community activities.

Madam Speaker, the remarks of Ambassador Lund provided an extraordinary educational briefing for those who attended this event of the Human Rights Caucus. Ambassador Lund wove an intricate account of how this young humanitarian at the request of the American War Refugee Board went to Hungary at one of the darkest times of mankind. His heroic actions are a powerful message that one person, with the courage to care, can make a difference in the world.

Raoul Wallenberg's legacy must not be forgotten. For this reason, I particularly welcomed his comments stressing the importance of actively educating new generations on Wallenberg's deeds for mankind. I must agree with my friend who describes Wallenberg's disappearance as "one of the saddest and most frustrating unanswered questions in Swedish history". Indeed, this is one of the saddest episodes in world history.

Madam Speaker, Wallenberg's sacrifice is a testament to his belief in every human being's right to live with dignity and still stands out as a shining light. Ambassador Lund brought the message to his young audience the most important lesson Wallenberg taught us: the world depends on individual's willingness to take on responsibility and I am proud to pass along the message to all of my colleagues.

Because Raoul Wallenberg's heroism continues to play a significant role in the U.S. Swedish relations, Madam Speaker, I ask that the speech of my friend, Ambassador Lund, be placed in the RECORD, and I urge all of my colleagues to read it carefully.

THE LEGACY OF RAOUL WALLENBERG: HERO OF THE HOLOCAUST

[Delivered by H.E. Mr Gunnar Lund,
Ambassador of Sweden]

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to you and your

wife, Annette, and to the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, for organizing this annual briefing of the life and legacy of my country-man, Raoul Wallenberg. The initiative is yet another proof of your untiring commitment to the improvement of human rights conditions worldwide, well known both in the United States and in Sweden, and beyond.

We sometimes take for granted that Raoul Wallenberg will not and cannot be forgotten. But to keep his legacy alive, we need to actively educate new generations on who he was and what he did. This is such an opportunity. In fact, it is hard to think of a better way to remember Raoul Wallenberg than to share a moment like this with somebody like you, Congressman Lantos. You have a personal experience from what happened in Budapest in 1944.

I leave it to my co-speakers to dwell on the details of Raoul Wallenberg's life and deeds. But I would like to point out that through his actions, he has had a significant influence on the relations between the United States and Sweden.

Wallenberg himself arrived in this country in 1931. He was 19 years old and he came here to study architecture at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He thereby broke with his family's expectations that he would go into banking. He stayed in the United States for four years, returning home in 1935 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

His next encounter with the United States, nine years later, was of a more indirect nature, but it would determine his life.

The year was 1944 and Europe was burning. Hungary had been occupied by the Nazis. As a neutral country, Sweden had already started to issue temporary passports to Jews in Budapest in order to save them from deportation and death. At the same time, the United States had established the War Refugee Board, whose task was to save Jews from Nazi persecution. The Board summoned a meeting in Stockholm in order to identify an individual who could travel to Budapest to initiate a major rescue action from the Swedish Legation. Wallenberg's name was presented, and he accepted to take on the risky mission. He was 32 years old and already an established businessman in Stockholm.

The rest is history. By issuing thousands of protective passports, employing hundreds of persons and hiring over thirty buildings in Budapest which he declared to be Swedish territory and where Jews could seek shelter, Wallenberg saved thousands of lives, perhaps as many as 100,000. He did not use traditional diplomacy, but everything from bribery to threats of blackmail. He took great personal risks. Even when we peel off some of the myths surrounding his person, Wallenberg remains a remarkable symbol of personal

courage in the fight against the atrocities of the Second World War.

In 1945 Wallenberg was captured by Soviet troops and disappeared. To this day, we don't know what happened to him. His disappearance remains one of the saddest and most frustrating unanswered questions in Swedish history. In hindsight, we have reasons to be critical of our own role in the search for clarity about Wallenberg's fate: Could more have been done by the Swedish Government to demand answers from the Soviet leadership during the years following the disappearance? In 2001, an official commission of inquiry was appointed to investigate the Swedish government's actions in the Wallenberg case, and the title of the report, "A Diplomatic Failure" suggests that the question is justified.

Wallenberg could never be thanked personally for his efforts, but many people around the world, not the least yourself and so many others in the United States, have made great efforts to investigate his fate and carry on his ideals. In 1981, fifty years after he arrived in Ann Arbor, Raoul Wallenberg was declared an honorary citizen in the United States. Streets, squares and schools have been named after him in this country and elsewhere. Not far from where we are now, the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum is located on Raoul Wallenberg Place. In Europe, the Swedish Institute and the Hungarian organization Open Society Archives last month co-sponsored an exhibition in Budapest on Raoul Wallenberg's life and deeds. The exhibition had previously been exhibited in Ukraine, Poland, Bosnia Herzegovina and Romania, and will continue to Russia. Hopefully, initiatives like this can teach new generations in a new Europe the importance of personal courage in the shaping of history.

Raoul Wallenberg believed in every human being's right to life and dignity. And that legacy continues to influence Swedish foreign policy. The Swedish defense of human rights principles includes a strong commitment to equal opportunities for all people, a total abolition of all forms of torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, the freedom of thought and expression and the abolition of the death penalty, just to mention a few. This commitment is more needed than ever. Violations of human rights still occur on all continents, around the world. The situations in Darfur, in North Korea, in Iran and in Burma are tragic examples.

Back to Raoul Wallenberg. Perhaps the most important lesson he taught us was that at the end of the day, individual courage does matter. International efforts, no matter how well-meant, still depend on the individual's preparedness to take on responsibility.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6927–S6970

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1530–1537, S.J. Res. 15, and S. Con. Res. 34. **Pages S6953–54**

Measures Passed:

Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act: Senate passed S. 398, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6965–67**

Reid (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 1256, to modify the conforming amendments section. **Pages S6965–67**

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act: Senate passed S. 1532, to extend tax relief to the residents and businesses of an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President under section 410 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (FEMA–1699–DR) by reason of severe storms and tornados beginning on May 4, 2007, and determined by the President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such Act. **Pages S6967–68**

Senate Gift Shop Revolving Fund: Senate passed S. 1537, to authorize the transfer of certain funds from the Senate Gift Shop Revolving Fund to the Senate Employee Child Care Center. **Pages S6968–69**

Measures Considered:

Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Senate continued consideration of S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S6928–49**

Pending:

Reid (for Kennedy/Specter) Amendment No. 1150, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6928**

Grassley/DeMint Amendment No. 1166 (to Amendment No. 1150), to clarify that the revoca-

tion of an alien's visa or other documentation is not subject to judicial review. **Page S6928**

Cornyn Modified Amendment No. 1184 (to Amendment No. 1150), to establish a permanent bar for gang members, terrorists, and other criminals. **Page S6928**

Dodd/Menendez Amendment No. 1199 (to Amendment No. 1150), to increase the number of green cards for parents of United States citizens, to extend the duration of the new parent visitor visa, and to make penalties imposed on individuals who overstay such visas applicable only to such individuals. **Page S6928**

Menendez Amendment No. 1194 (to Amendment No. 1150), to modify the deadline for the family backlog reduction. **Page S6928**

McConnell Amendment No. 1170 (to Amendment No. 1150), to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require individuals voting in person to present photo identification. **Page S6928**

Feingold Amendment No. 1176 (to Amendment No. 1150), to establish commissions to review the facts and circumstances surrounding injustices suffered by European Americans, European Latin Americans, and Jewish refugees during World War II. **Page S6928**

Durbin/Grassley Amendment No. 1231 (to Amendment No. 1150), to ensure that employers make efforts to recruit American workers. **Page S6928**

Sessions Amendment No. 1234 (to Amendment No. 1150), to save American taxpayers up to \$24 billion in the 10 years after passage of this Act, by preventing the earned income tax credit, which is, according to the Congressional Research Service, the largest anti-poverty entitlement program of the Federal Government, from being claimed by Y temporary workers or illegal aliens given status by this Act until they adjust to legal permanent resident status. **Page S6928**

Sessions Amendment No. 1235 (to Amendment No. 1150), to save American taxpayers up to \$24 billion in the 10 years after passage of this Act, by preventing the earned income tax credit, which is, according to the Congressional Research Service, the

largest anti-poverty entitlement program of the Federal Government, from being claimed by Y temporary workers or illegal aliens given status by this Act until they adjust to legal permanent resident status.

Page S6928

Lieberman Amendment No. 1191 (to Amendment No. 1150), to provide safeguards against faulty asylum procedures and to improve conditions of detention.

Page S6928

Cornyn (for Allard) Amendment No. 1189 (to Amendment No. 1150), to eliminate the preference given to people who entered the United States illegally over people seeking to enter the country legally in the merit-based evaluation system for visas.

Page S6928

Cornyn Amendment No. 1250 (to Amendment No. 1150), to address documentation of employment and to make an amendment with respect to mandatory disclosure of information.

Pages S6928–33

Salazar (for Clinton) Modified Amendment No. 1183 (to Amendment No. 1150), to reclassify the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives.

Pages S6933, S6945

Salazar (for Obama/Menendez) Amendment No. 1202 (to Amendment No. 1150), to provide a date on which the authority of the section relating to the increasing of American competitiveness through a merit-based evaluation system for immigrants shall be terminated.

Pages S6933–36

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the bill at approximately 3:30 p.m., on Monday, June 4, 2007.

Page S6969

Authorizing Leadership To Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Page S6965

Authority for Committees—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding a recess/adjournment of the Senate, all committees be authorized to file legislative and executive reports on Thursday, May 31, 2007, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

Page S6965

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Katherine Almquist, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Gregory B. Cade, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

Thomas E. Harvey, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional Affairs).

Douglas Menarchik, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Mario Mancuso, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

Paul J. Bonicelli, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Steven Jeffrey Isakowitz, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

Janis Herschkowitz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank for a term of three years.

Nguyen Van Hanh, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank for a term of three years.

Cynthia Allen Wainscott, of Georgia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2008.

Douglas G. Myers, of California, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

Jeffrey Patchen, of Indiana, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

Lotsee Patterson, of Oklahoma, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2011.

Mark P. Lagon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

Phillip Carter, III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea.

Hans G. Klemm, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste.

Stephen W. Porter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2012.

Janet E. Garvey, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon.

R. Niels Marquardt, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of Comoros.

Miriam K. Hughes, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Michael K. Kussman, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

James R. Keith, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Malaysia.

Cameron R. Hume, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

Ravic Rolf Huso, of Hawaii, to be Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

8 Army nominations in the rank of general.

3 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

41 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Foreign Service, Navy. **Pages S6964, S6969–70**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

Page S6969

Messages from the House:

Page S6953

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S6927, S6953

Measures Held at the Desk:

Page S6953

Measures Read the First Time:

Page S6953

Additional Cosponsors:

Page S6954

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Page S6955

Additional Statements:

Pages S6952–53

Amendments Submitted:

Page S6963

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 25, 2007, and adjourned pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 158, at 1:28 p.m., until 2:30 p.m., on Monday, June 4, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6969.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 158.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D666)

H.R. 988, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the "Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office". Signed on May 25, 2007 (Public Law 110–27).

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2:30 p.m., Monday, June 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will resume consideration of S. 1348, Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, June 5

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Altmire, Jason, Pa., E1163
 Baird, Brian, Wash., E1158
 Bilbray, Brian P., Calif., E1151
 Blackburn, Marsha, Tenn., E1169
 Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E1147, E1166
 Blunt, Roy, Mo., E1152
 Bonner, Jo, Ala., E1145, E1150, E1153, E1157, E1160, E1174, E1178, E1179
 Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E1171, E1175
 Brady, Robert A., Pa., E1153, E1170, E1174
 Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E1148
 Butterfield, G.K., N.C., E1154
 Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E1162, E1180
 Costa, Jim, Calif., E1155
 Costello, Jerry F., Ill., E1149
 Crowley, Joseph, N.Y., E1151
 Davis, Jo Ann, Va., E1169
 Davis, Lincoln, Tenn., E1148
 Davis, Susan A., Calif., E1162
 Davis, Tom, Va., E1156
 Ehlers, Vernon J., Mich., E1164
 Ellison, Kieth, Minn., E1163
 English, Phil, Pa., E1155
 Etheridge, Bob, N.C., E1167
 Faleomavaega, Eni F.H., American Samoa, E1148
 Filner, Bob, Calif., E1174, E1177
 Frelinghuysen, Rodney P., N.J., E1159
 Garrett, Scott, N.J., E1154

Gonzalez, Charles A., Tex., E1168
 Gordon, Bart, Tenn., E1164
 Granger, Kay, Tex., E1145, E1153, E1173, E1177, E1179
 Green, Al, Tex., E1167
 Green, Gene, Tex., E1164
 Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E1173, E1177, E1178
 Holt, Rush D., N.J., E1155
 Hoyer, Steny H., Md., E1162
 Issa, Darrell E., Calif., E1156
 Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E1151
 Kanjorski, Paul E., Pa., E1170, E1174
 Kildee, Dale E., Mich., E1171, E1175
 King, Peter T., N.Y., E1160
 LaHood, Ray, Ill., E1156
 Lamborn, Doug, Colo., E1159
 Lampson, Nick, Tex., E1157
 Lantos, Tom, Calif., E1172, E1176, E1179, E1180
 Larson, John B., Conn., E1150
 Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1172, E1176, E1180
 Lewis, John, Ga., E1171, E1175
 Lipinski, Daniel, Ill., E1156, E1162
 LoBiondo, Frank A., N.J., E1146
 McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1170
 Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E1148, E1161
 Meek, Kendrick B., Fla., E1158
 Miller, Jeff, Fla., E1146
 Mitchell, Harry E., Ariz., E1149, E1163
 Moore, Dennis, Kans., E1173, E1177, E1179
 Moran, James P., Va., E1164, E1168
 Moran, Jerry, Kans., E1159, E1172, E1176

Musgrave, Marilyn N., Colo., E1154
 Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E1166
 Pitts, Joseph R., Pa., E1146
 Porter, Jon C., Nev., E1145, E1150, E1153, E1157, E1160, E1174, E1178, E1180
 Pryce, Deborah, Ohio, E1160
 Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E1155
 Ross, Mike, Ark., E1147
 Rush, Bobby L., Ill., E1152
 Sali, Bill, Idaho, E1146, E1153
 Sanchez, Loretta, Calif., E1154
 Scott, David, Ga., E1148
 Sestak, Joe, Pa., E1163
 Shuster, Bill, Pa., E1169
 Smith, Adrian, Nebr., E1151
 Solis, Hilda L., Calif., E1161
 Stupak, Bart, Mich., E1149
 Tancredo, Thomas G., Colo., E1161
 Taylor, Gene, Miss., E1145
 Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E1169
 Tiahrt, Todd, Kans., E1172, E1175
 Tiberi, Patrick J., Ohio, E1156
 Turner, Michael R., Ohio, E1159
 Udall, Tom, N.M., E1152
 Van Hollen, Chris, Md., E1157
 Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E1167
 Wexler, Robert, Fla., E1166
 Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1151



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